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TEAM	PR	OR	DR
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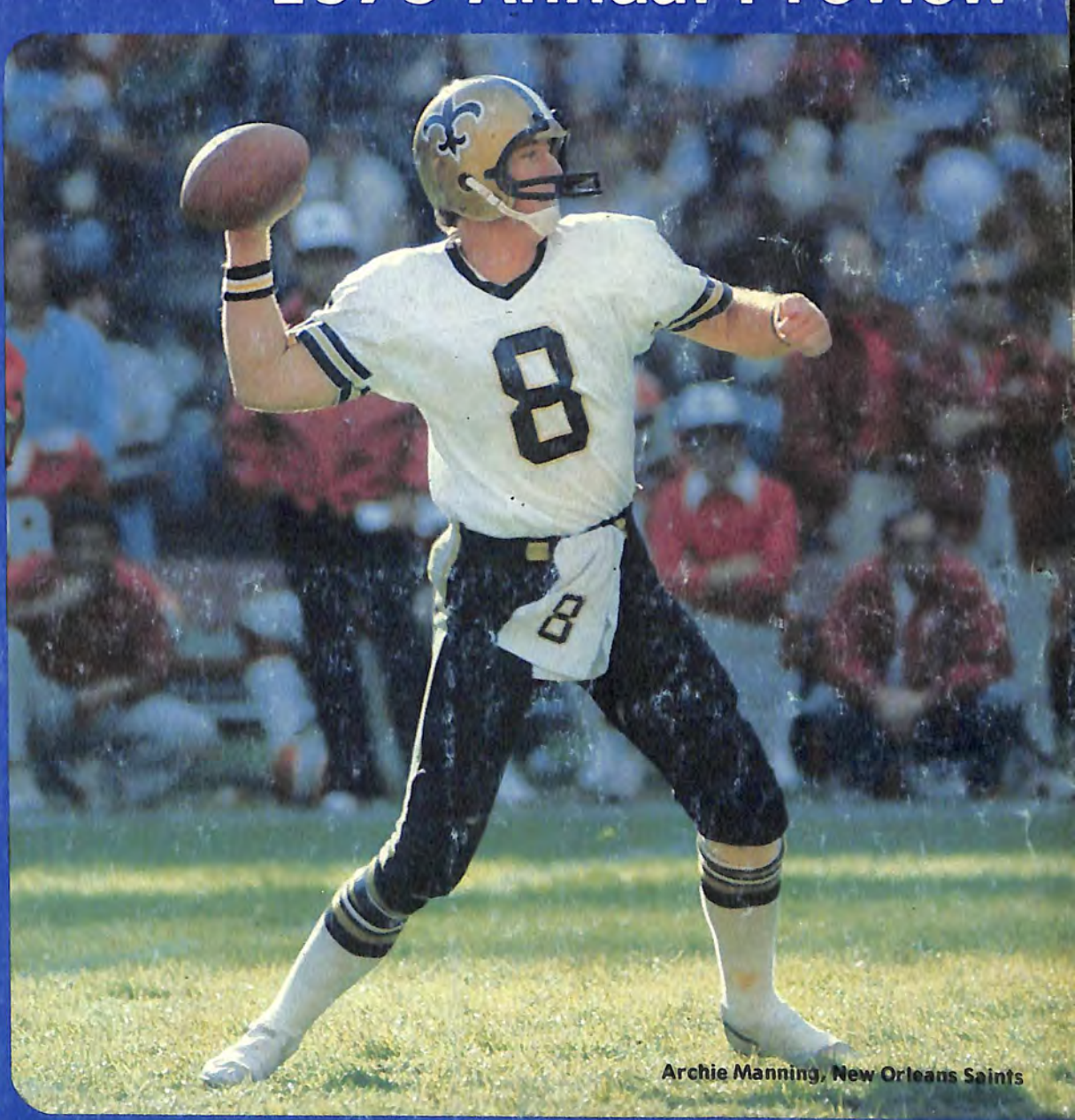
N.E. Patriots	123	74	49
[illegible]	123	74	49
L.A. Rams	[illegible]	72	49
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Houston Oilers	[illegible]	[illegible]	48
Detroit Lions	120	73	47
Miami Dolphins	120	74	46
S.D. Chargers	120	73	47
Oakland Raiders	120	73	47
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	48

Exclusive Stat-Key™ Annual



Archie Manning, New Orleans Saints

Gary Danielson
Detroit Lions

Jim Zorn
Seattle Seahawks

Ron Jaworski
Philadelphia Eagles

Brian Sipe
Cleveland Browns

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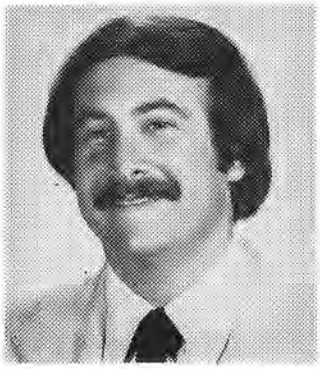

The reason for all of Danny's National Publicity is his uncanny ability to accurately predict the outcomes of College & Pro Football games. From 1964 through 1978 Danny's winning percentage versus the pointspread has averaged an incredible 70%+. This includes his fantastic **15 year Post Season record** (vs. spread) where he has correctly picked 82 of 107 College Bowl games **(76%)**, 57 of 70 Pro Playoff games **(80%)**, and **10** of **12 Super Bowl games.**

During the **1978 Football Season** Danny's weekly Newsletter **won 15 of 18 weekends** versus the spread or 85% of the time (15 of 18 = 85%). Danny averaged over **76%** against the spread in **all** of his College & Pro picks during his 15 winning weekends, which obviously was very **financially rewarding** to his clients. Some highlights of last season were: Danny's 1978 Newsletter won versus the spread in **every** month; September, October, November & December including sweeping the months of **October & November** (9 weeks, **9-0**) without a losing weekend versus the spread! During the 16 weekend regular Season, Danny's Newsletter had **thirteen** (13) **100% Saturday/ Sundays** (9 Pro, 4 College) versus the spread. Plus Danny only lost **10** Pro games (vs. spread) during the **16 week** Pro Schedule, in what has been called the most unpredictable year in Pro Football!!

Like last Football Season, Danny's 1979 Football Newsletter will consist of his weekly opinion (versus the Las Vegas spread) on 2-6 College games and 2-4 Pro games. In case you missed it, Danny was on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW**, hosted by Tom Snyder, on Thursday Night **October 19, 1978**, where he was asked to pick his 5 top Pro games vs. spread for that weekend. He responded in front of a National TV audience by correctly predicting 4 of 5 (**80%** vs. spread), including outright upset winners NY Giants over Washington & Kansas City over Cleveland! Danny also astonished a National TV audience with his accuracy 3 years ago on **NBC's TOMORROW SHOW (Oct. 14, 1975)** by picking 6 of 7 of his top picks **(86%)** correctly (vs. spread) plus 17 of 19 that same weekend versus the spread **(89%)** (results announced by Tom Snyder on October 20, 1975 & October 23, 1978, which was after each of Danny's successful appearances).

During the 1977 Football Season, Danny was the **ONLY** Football Prognosticator to be featured weekly on Network TV. During the 1977 season, **NBC** used a robot named "Statz". **CBS** had Jimmy The Greek who mostly analyzed games - not predict them, but **ABC's GOOD MORNING SHOW** hosted by David Hartman, had Danny on **every Friday** predicting College & Pro football weekend games from October 7 - December 26, 1977. On the **ABC-TV SHOW** Danny averaged an unbelievable **66%** winning average and that was while picking mostly upsets (results announced on the air Dec. 26, 1977). Plus on the **ABC-TV** National Show, Danny picked every Monday Night Pro game correctly (vs. spread) and also predicted **7** winners out of **8** (vs. spread) during the **Big 1977 Thanksgiving Weekend games** for a National audience! During last years big **Thanksgiving Weekend** (Nov. 23-27, 1978), Danny's Newsletter was a sensational **75%** against the pointspread.

Space does not permit the listing of every National TV & Radio Show or every major Newspaper & Magazine article that featured **Danny's accuracy** in 1975, 1976, 1977 & 1978, but if you would like them please call or write our office. Besides **ABC & NBC-TV,** some are: Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Esquire Magazine, Football News, Sports Illustrated, Pro Football Weekly, Penthouse, etc.

There was a thorough objective research done on the fraudulent practices of many football touts entitled "**Tips on Touts**", which appeared in the December 1977 issue of **ESQUIRE MAGAZINE** on page 198. The article points out that "**unlike Danny Sheridan,** some (touts) appear to be either flat-out crooks, slightly shady types, or terrible liars." The article was written by Lawrence Linderman, a Nationally known writer who has recently done several of the main interviews for **PLAYBOY & PENTHOUSE**, and who is well respected among his peers. For a copy of this objective article "Tips on Touts", write or call our office. It could save you money, as the author suggests.

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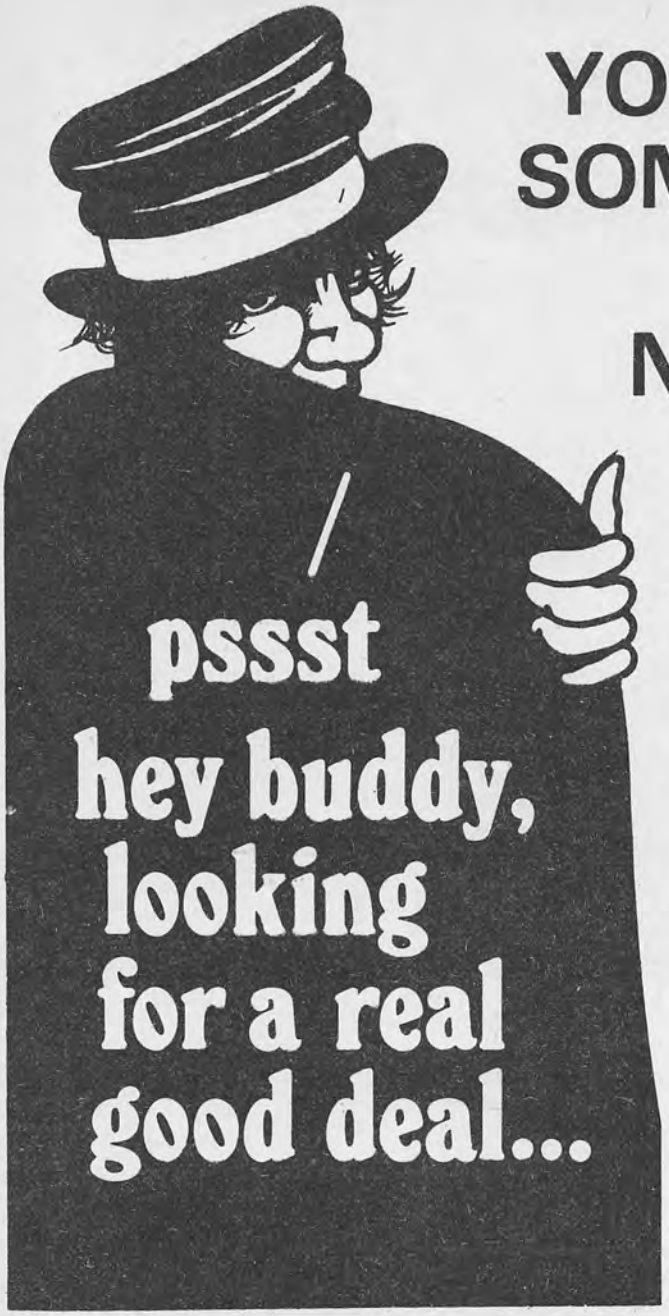

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Volume Nine GamePlan Pro FOOTBALL Annual Preview

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Joseph Del Popolo (pictured above), Publisher of GamePlan Magazines, promises you, our loyal readers, the same excellent coverage in the future that resulted in GamePlan twice being named the most accurate football magazine in the nation. For those of you desiring to be heard relative to any aspect of this publication, please feel free to write Mr. Del Popolo at the address listed below. We welcome any praise and/or criticism you may express with regard to GamePlan.

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abc Schedule of ABC-TV Games

Monday, Sept. 3
Pittsburgh at New England

Thursday, Sept. 6
Los Angeles at Denver

Monday, Sept. 10
Atlanta at Philadelphia

Monday, Sept. 17
N.Y. Giants at Washington

Monday, Sept. 24
Dallas at Cleveland

Monday, Oct. 1
New England at Green Bay

Monday, Oct. 8
Miami at Oakland

Sunday, Oct. 14
Los Angeles at Dallas

Monday, Oct. 15
Minnesota at N.Y. Jets

Monday, Oct 22
Denver at Pittsburgh

Thursday, Oct. 25
San Diego at Oakland

Monday, Oct. 29
Seattle at Atlanta

Monday, Nov. 5
Houston at Miami

Monday, Nov. 12
Atlanta at Los Angeles

Monday, Nov. 26
N.Y. Jets at Seattle

Thursday, Nov. 29
New England at Miami

Monday, Dec. 3
Oakland at New Orleans

Monday, Dec. 10
Pittsburgh at Houston

Monday, Dec. 17
Denver at San Diego

CBS Schedule of CBS-TV Games

Sunday, Sept. 2
Atlanta at New Orleans
Dallas at St. Louis
Green Bay at Chicago
New York Giants at Philadelphia
San Francisco at Minnesota

Sunday, Sept. 9
Dallas at San Francisco
Minnesota at Chicago
New Orleans vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
St. Louis at New York Giants
Tampa Bay at Baltimore
Washington at Detroit

Sunday, Sept. 16
Chicago at Dallas
Detroit at New York Jets
Philadelphia at New Orleans
San Francisco at Los Angeles
Tampa Bay at Green Bay

Sunday, Sept. 23
Atlanta at Detroit
Chicago at Miami
Green Bay at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at San Francisco
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Washington at St. Louis

Sunday, Sept. 30
Minnesota at Detroit
New York Giants at New Orleans
St. Louis at Los Angeles
San Francisco at San Diego
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Washington at Atlanta

Sunday, Oct. 7
Chicago at Buffalo
Dallas at Minnesota
Detroit at New England
Green Bay at Atlanta
Los Angeles at New Orleans
Philadelphia at Washington
St. Louis at Houston
Tampa Bay at New York Giants

Sunday, Oct. 14
Atlanta at Oakland
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee
New Orleans at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at St. Louis
San Francisco at New York Giants
Washington at Cleveland

Sunday, Oct. 21
Atlanta at San Francisco
Chicago at Minnesota
Detroit at New Orleans
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
New York Giants at Kansas City
St. Louis at Dallas
Washington at Philadelphia

Sunday, Oct. 28
Chicago at San Francisco
Dallas at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at Miami
New Orleans at Washington
New York Giants at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Minnesota

Sunday, Nov. 4
Dallas at New York Giants
Los Angeles at Seattle
Minnesota at St. Louis
New Orleans at Denver
San Francisco at Oakland
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Washington at Pittsburgh

Sunday, Nov. 11
Atlanta at New York Giants
Los Angeles at Chicago
Minnesota vs. Green Bay
St. Louis at Washington
San Francisco at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Detroit

Sunday, Nov. 18
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Minnesota
Green Bay at Buffalo
New Orleans at Seattle
New York Giants at Tampa Bay
St. Louis at Philadelphia

Thursday, Nov. 22
Chicago at Detroit

Sunday, Nov. 25
Los Angeles at San Francisco
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Green Bay
St. Louis at Cincinnati
Washington at New York Giants

Sunday, Dec. 2
Atlanta at San Diego

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New York Giants at Dallas
San Francisco at St. Louis

Saturday, Dec. 8
Dallas at Philadelphia

Sunday, Dec. 9
Chicago at Green Bay
Los Angeles at Atlanta
New York Giants at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at San Francisco

Saturday, Dec. 15
Green Bay at Detroit

Sunday, Dec. 16
Minnesota at New England
New Orleans at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at Houston
St. Louis at Chicago
San Francisco at Atlanta
Washington at Dallas

Sunday, Dec. 23
NFC First Round Playoff

Saturday, Dec. 29
NFC Divisional Playoff

Sunday, Dec. 30
NFC Divisional Playoff

Sunday, Jan 6
NFC Championship

Sunday, Jan 20
Super Bowl XIV

NBC Schedule of NBC-TV Games

Sunday, Sept. 2
Baltimore at Kansas City
Cincinnati at Denver
Cleveland at New York Jets
Houston at Washington
Miami at Buffalo
Oakland at Los Angeles
San Diego at Seattle

Sunday, Sept. 9
Cincinnati at Buffalo
Cleveland at Kansas City
Houston at Pittsburgh
New York Jets at New England
Oakland at San Diego
Seattle at Miami

Sunday, Sept. 16
Baltimore at Cleveland
Buffalo at San Diego
Denver at Atlanta
Kansas City at Houston
Miami at Minnesota
New England at Cincinnati
Oakland at Seattle
Pittsburgh at St. Louis

Sunday, Sept. 23
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Houston at Cincinnati
New York Jets at Buffalo
Oakland at Kansas City
San Diego at New England
Seattle at Denver

Sunday, Sept. 30
Buffalo at Baltimore
Cincinnati at Dallas
Cleveland at Houston
Denver at Oakland
Kansas City at Seattle
Miami at New York Jets
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia

Sunday, Oct. 7
Kansas City at Cincinnati
New York Jets at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
San Diego at Denver
Seattle at San Francisco

Sunday, Oct. 14
Buffalo at Miami
Denver at Kansas City
Houston at Baltimore
New England at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Seattle at San Diego

Sunday, Oct. 21
Baltimore at Buffalo
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Houston at Seattle
Miami at New England
Oakland at New York Jets
San Diego at Los Angeles

Sunday, Oct. 28
Buffalo at Detroit
Cleveland at St. Louis
Kansas City at Denver
New England at Baltimore
New York Jets at Houston

Sunday, Nov. 4
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Cleveland at Philadelphia
New England at Buffalo
New York Jets at Green Bay
San Diego at Kansas City

Sunday, Nov. 11
Baltimore at Miami
Buffalo at New York Jets
New England at Denver
Pittsburgh at Kansas City
Oakland at Houston
San Diego at Cincinnati
Seattle at Cleveland

Sunday, Nov. 18
Baltimore at New England
Cincinnati at Houston
Denver at San Francisco
Kansas City at Oakland
Miami at Cleveland
New York Jets at Chicago
Pittsburgh at San Diego

Thursday, Nov. 22
Houston at Dallas

Sunday, Nov. 25
Buffalo at New England
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Kansas City at San Diego
Miami at Baltimore
Oakland at Denver

Sunday, Dec. 2
Baltimore at New York Jets
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Denver at Buffalo
Houston at Cleveland
Seattle at Kansas City

Saturday, Dec. 8
Denver at Seattle

Sunday, Dec. 9
Buffalo at Minnesota
Cincinnati at Washington
Cleveland at Oakland
Kansas City at Baltimore
Miami at Detroit
New England at New York Jets
San Diego at New Orleans

Saturday, Dec. 15
New York Jets at Miami

Sunday, Dec. 16
Baltimore at New York Giants
Buffalo at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Oakland

HOW TO TURN $200 INTO $13,000 IN 16 WEEKS!

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Then look at the pyramid table at right. It shows what happens when you plow half your winnings into next week's stake.

Crazy? Sure! But IT WORKS! If you've got 75% winners, $200 turns into $13,000!

If you've got 75%.

Okay, so that brings up the second table. I want you to look at the one right below. It shows our actual Hotline record for the last 7 weeks of the '78 season.

Just look at our winners!

NOV 4	
New Orleans over Pittsburgh	WON ✓
Miami over Dallas	WON ✓
Tampa Bay over Los Angeles	WON ✓
Baltimore over Washington	WON ✓
NOV 11	
Houston over New England	WON ✓
Seattle over Baltimore	LOST
St. Louis over San Francisco	WON ✓
Oakland over Cincinnati	WON ✓
Los Angeles over Pittsburgh	WON ✓
Dallas over Green Bay	WON ✓
NOV 18	
Green Bay over Denver	LOST
Cincinnati over Pittsburgh	WON ✓
Houston over Miami	WON ✓
Dallas over Washington	WON ✓
NOV 25	
San Diego over Kansas City	WON ✓
New Orleans over Atlanta	WON ✓
St. Louis over Philadelphia	LOST
Pittsburgh over San Francisco	WON ✓
DEC 2	
Houston over Pittsburgh	LOST
Detroit over St. Louis	LOST
New England over Dallas	LOST
San Diego over Chicago	WON ✓
DEC 9	
Chicago over Green Bay	WON ✓
Cleveland over NY Jets	WON ✓
Dallas over Philadelphia	WON ✓
New Orleans over Houston	LOST
DEC 16	
Washington over Chicago	LOST
Philadelphia over NY Giants	WON ✓
Los Angeles over Green Bay	WON ✓
San Diego over Houston	WON ✓

And if we add our 4-0 college bowl picks during the same period, it works out to

26 WON!
8 LOST

HERE IS MY "65 POWER PYRAMID"

Take a look at these figures based on the proven record shown below. Then you can either sit there and day dream or you can JOIN UP AND GUARANTEE YOURSELF A WINNING SEASON!

Wk.	Stake	Bet'g Unit	W/L	WON	LOST	NET	BANKED
1.	$ 200	$ 50	3/1	$ 150	$ 52	$ 98	$ 50
2.	$ 248	$ 62	3/1	$ 186	$ 65	$ 121	$ 60
3.	$ 308	$ 77	3/1	$ 231	$ 80	$ 151	$ 75
4.	$ 380	$ 95	3/1	$ 285	$ 100	$ 186	$ 90
5.	$ 480	$ 120	3/1	$ 360	$ 126	$ 236	$ 118
6.	$ 600	$ 150	3/1	$ 450	$ 158	$ 292	$ 144
7.	$ 748	$ 187	3/1	$ 561	$ 196	$ 365	$ 185
8.	$ 928	$ 262	3/1	$ 786	$ 275	$ 511	$ 253
9.	$1176	$ 294	3/1	$ 882	$ 309	$ 583	$ 285
10.	$1464	$ 366	3/1	$1098	$ 385	$ 713	$ 357
11.	$1820	$ 455	3/1	$1365	$ 477	$ 888	$ 444
12.	$2264	$ 566	3/1	$1698	$ 595	$1103	$ 551
13.	$2816	$ 704	3/1	$2112	$ 740	$1372	$ 684
14.	$3504	$ 876	3/1	$2628	$ 920	$1708	$ 852
15.	$4360	$1090	3/1	$3270	$1145	$2135	$1066
16.	$5428	$1357	3/1	$4071	$1425	$2646	$2666
	$5428					TOTAL BANKED	$7780
						LAST WEEK STAKE +	$5428

That's 66 times your original stake, or . . Winning percentage: 6604 0%!

Let's say you bet $50 on each of our Hotline games the first week, and then banked one half of your first week's winnings and added the other half to your stake for the following week — and continued doing so for the rest of the season. Based on the winning percentage shown, here's how you'd have made out! NEED I SAY MORE?

GRAND TOTAL $13,208

THAT'S A WINNING PERCENTAGE OF 76.4%

Now, look at the 75% pyramid again. Look at the profits!

See what I mean? Sign up with me and we'll beat the pants off Vegas!

Even on a flat bet basis, you can take any stake — $200...$2,000...and turn it *eight times over!*

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And when you see how little you're paying for the shot — and how much you're getting, I think you'll agree it's...

THE MOST ACCURATE PICKS IN FOOTBALL.

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16 SELECTIONS EACH WEEK, college and NFL, via...

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- PLUS OUR NEW "BETTABILITY" INDEX. You'll be getting our computer-based analysis on how to target your betting dollars on the games likeliest to *make you money!*

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- THE TWO WEEK SAMPLER. Try me for two weeks and get all of the above — including 32 chances to make money and come in for the rest of the season. Fee: $25.

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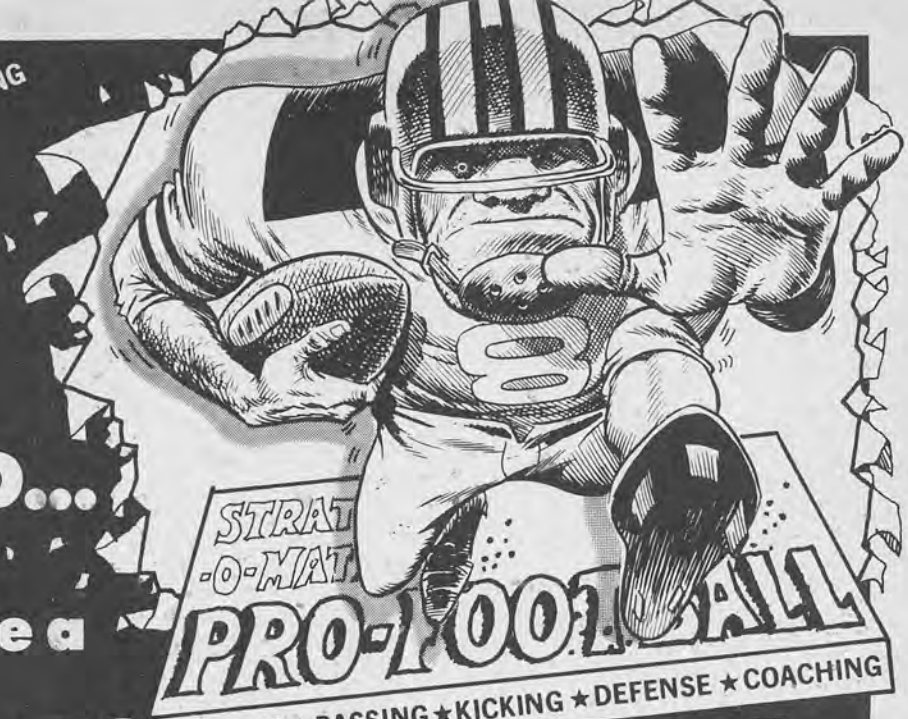

STRAT-O-MATIC PRO FOOTBALL

4-3-, 3-4, nickel defense, or whatever, if that's your bag, Strat-O-Matic is for you. Yes, you can actually set up these and countless other defenses to battle pro football's varied offense formations including full house backfield, 3 wide receiver or 2 tight end alignments. Strat-O-Matic actually combines unbelievable coaching strategy with the amazing talents of 1000 NFL football players who perform according to their actual abilities. Both the stars and second stringers from all 26 NFL teams will pass, run, kick and play defense for you.

Each player's strengths and weaknesses are measured in STRAT-O-MATIC. For example, Jim Hart may have just an adequate pass completion percentage but he will most likely be among the most effective long passing quarterbacks. Oakland's Mark van Eeghen may not be an outside running threat, but few runners match his ability to pick up the "tough inside yardage." Several receivers are superior to Steve Largent of Seattle "in going deep for the bomb," but few equal his ability in catching medium and short passes. The Cleveland Browns, led by a respectable front four backed up by solid linebackers will be difficult to run against but will struggle against the pass. Of course, the Dallas Cowboys defense led by Harvey Martin will be impossible to run against and the pass rush in one word...devastating.

STRAT-O-MATIC IS 2 GAMES IN ONE

Coaching, individual player abilities and team concept are all blended into one electrifying creation—STRAT-O-MATIC ADVANCED FOOTBALL. BUT IF YOU PREFER A MUCH SIMPLER GAME WITH JUST PLAYER ABILITIES INVOLVED AND A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF STRATEGY—OUR BASIC VERSION IS FOR YOU. There is no need to purchase either version separately as all game parts and instructions for both versions are included in our famous football game.

FANS RAVE:

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS WE RECEIVE EVERY WEEK, FROM FANS OF ALL AGES AND FROM COAST-TO-COAST.

My roommates in my apartment at Michigan University are wild about the game and are pitching in four ways to buy it.
J.C., Ann Arbor, Michigan

My grandson, who's 10, spends ¾ of his time at his friend's house playing the game. Being a grandmother, it is surprising to me the strong desire this child has for the game.
J.M., Scranton, Penna.

Your game is the best investment I ever made. The game is great.
S.I., Bellmore, N.Y.

It's just great. The passing, running and kicking are exactly right.
M.K., New York, N.Y.

It is the greatest game on the market. The advanced version does just about everything but sell popcorn. For an avid football fan, your game introduces a new dimension that makes watching the pros that much more enjoyable.
R.G., Brooklyn, N.Y.

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THE EDGE
SPORTS SERVICE

ACTUAL 1978 HEADLINES

LIKE UPSETS? WE HAD:
DEN OVER OAK
K.C. OVER CINN
UNDERDOGS TOO: WASH, BUFF, N. ORLEANS

Last Three Weeks
TOP 3 PRO
AND
TOP 3 COLLEGE
13-5

LAST WEEK
TOP 3 COLLEGE 2-1
ALL PRO GAMES 9-4
MONDAY NIGHTS 7-1
Don't Miss Us!

Last Week
TOP 3 COLLEGE
& TOP 3 PRO 5-1
MON. NIGHTS 9-3
Don't Miss Us!

OPENING WEEK COLLEGE
OVER 65%
Compare–then get THE EDGE
Don't miss us this week!!

Last Four Weeks
TOP 3 COLLEGE
10-2
Don't Miss Us This Week!

LAST WEEK
TOP 7 COLLEGE
& TOP 5 PRO 9-3
MONDAY NIGHTS 8-1
FREE PHONE OFFER*
*SEE THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Last Week
PHONES 7-1
TOP 5 PRO 5-0
BASKETS–HOT!
Don't Miss Us!

TOP 7 COLLEGE 7-0
TOP 5 PRO 4-1
How Did You Do?
We're No. 1!

Last Five Weeks
TOP 3 COLLEGE
11-3
MONDAY NIGHTS 5-1
DON'T MISS US THIS WEEK!

Last 3 Weeks
TOP 3 COLLEGE 7-2
MON. NIGHTS 8-2
Don't Miss Us!

Last Week
COLLEGE BASKETS
63%
FINAL WEEK PRO CHOICES
Don't Miss Us!

Again This Week
OVER 65%
ON ALL
COLLEGE CHOICES
Don't Miss Us!!

LAST WEEK
ALMOST TOPS 5-2
MON. NIGHTS 6-1
FREE PHONE OFFER*
*SEE THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Last Week
TOP 5 PRO 4-1
ALL PROS 10-3
MON. NIGHTS 9-2
Don't Miss Us!

LAST WEEK
WE'RE HOT!
Bowls Perfect
Phones 7–2
Baskets on Fire!!

SOME OTHER HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

1. An incredible **11-1** spread for our Top Pro and College Choices in issue 4.
2. Top Pro Choices went **18-5-2** versus the spread for issues 13 thru 17.
3. **12-2-1** against the spread on our Top 3 College Choices for issues 4 thru 8.
4. Monday Night — **9** wins **2** losses against the spread on the first eleven Mondays.

THE EDGE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OFFERS:

- 19 issues for the entire season including our College Bowls, Pro Playoffs, and the Super Bowl.
- Top 3 College, Top 3 Pro, Almost Tops 4 College, and Almost Tops 2 Pro with detailed reasoning for these choices.
- Score predictions on every pro and all major college games. (Selection includes Early Vegas Line.)
- Other features: college and pro schedules, past scores and closing Vegas line, college and pro power ratings, the Razor's Edge, systems, college basketball predictions.

THE EDGE LATE WEEK SHEET INCLUDES:

- 12 late week issues air mailed Wednesday — including a Special Bowl Report.
- 4 or 5 college releases and one pro release. The choices will be the latest information possible, other than our Late Telephone Service.
- Each selection will be rated as to strength of play.

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- 3 to 6 college releases and 2 to 4 pro releases. Each choice is individually rated.
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Some of our phone streaks in 1978 were:
16-5, 5-1, 5-1, 6-1, 12-6, 8-3, 7-0, 6-1, 4-0. We also were **6-1** on Monday night plays with our two highest ratings.

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1980 Super Bowl Preview

Wouldn't it be something?

If the Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots could meet for all the marbles in Super Bowl XIV. Yes, we know it can't happen because both teams are members of the American Conference. But it should, since they're the two best teams in pro football today.

We can see it now ... the setting is Pasadena's ancient Rose Bowl, scene of Super Bowl XIV. In attendance, a crowd of 100,000-plus football maniacs who love the sport so much everything else in their lives is secondary -- except, of course, if they had to choose between watching Terry Bradshaw hit Lynn Swann with a 60-yard bomb or romping in their favorite boudoir with Raquel Welch.

The Steelers versus the Patriots, both teams having proved their superiority over the best of the rest in the NFL during playoff action following a '79 regular season which saw them vanquish any and all who crossed their paths. Up in the broadcast booth, announcer Frank Gifford is doing the pre-game build-up, with assistance from sidekick Howard Cosell along with newly-added color commentator Mortimer Snerd.

"Well, Giffer," Humble Howie pontificates, "we've got a biggie on tap, the Steelers against the Patriots. And all you fans will want to stay tuned at halftime when I'll conduct an in-depth interview with NFL Commissioner Alex Karras."

Before long, which in Super Bowl parlance means ages and ages later, the game finally starts. Right from the outset, it's a barn-burner, just like everyone expected. The Steelers draw first blood, scoring on a 10-yard run by Franco (The Franchise) Harris. That touchdown prompts the many Steeler fans in attendance to start waving their infamous "Terrible Towels" -- which also raises the pollution count in near-by Los Angeles by several decimal points.

Before the half is over, however, the Patriots delight their rookie head coach, Ron Erhardt, by taking a 10-7 lead with a touchdown and a 32-yard field goal. The Steelers drive down into Patriot territory in the waning moments of the half, but come up empty-handed when time runs out, sending New England into the locker room with a three-point lead.

"Ah, yes, Giffer, this is pro football at its finest," Humble Howie intones.

"Oh, boy; oh, boy; oh, boy," commentator Snerd enthusiastically responds.

During halftime festivities, there's plenty of attractions to entertain the Rose Bowl crowd. But the loudest cheers come when the Dallas cheerleading team trots out -- every one of them an All-Pro in the cleavage department. Up in the stands, however, a disgruntled Cowboy fan uncurls a large banner that reads:

"You want our b--bs and b--ts, but how come you don't want our Cowboys!"

With the opening kickoff of the second half, you can sense the tremendous determination of all the players on the field. This is it, thirty minutes left in the season, winner-take-all. The NFL championship, a fancy Super Bowl ring, TV commercials for shaving cream, automobile tires and Samsonite luggage -- what the folks on Madison Avenue grandly refer to as the "whole ball of wax."

The hard-hitting play on the floor of the Rose Bowl reflects this, with players going down left and right with injuries like it was the second Battle of the Little Big Horn. Unfortunately for the Patriots, that kind of "bare knuckles" game is right up Pittsburgh's alley, and before you can say Monongahela River, the Steelers score twice to jump into a 21-10 lead entering the fourth quarter.

However, like the Patriots of Revolutionary War times -- who rallied to the cries of Paul Revere when defeat was at the door -- New England came storming back to score two touchdowns and take a 24-21 lead. In the stands, a small melee was touched off when a jubilant Patriot fan held up the following sign:

"The 'Terrible Towels' will be crying towels when this game is over!"

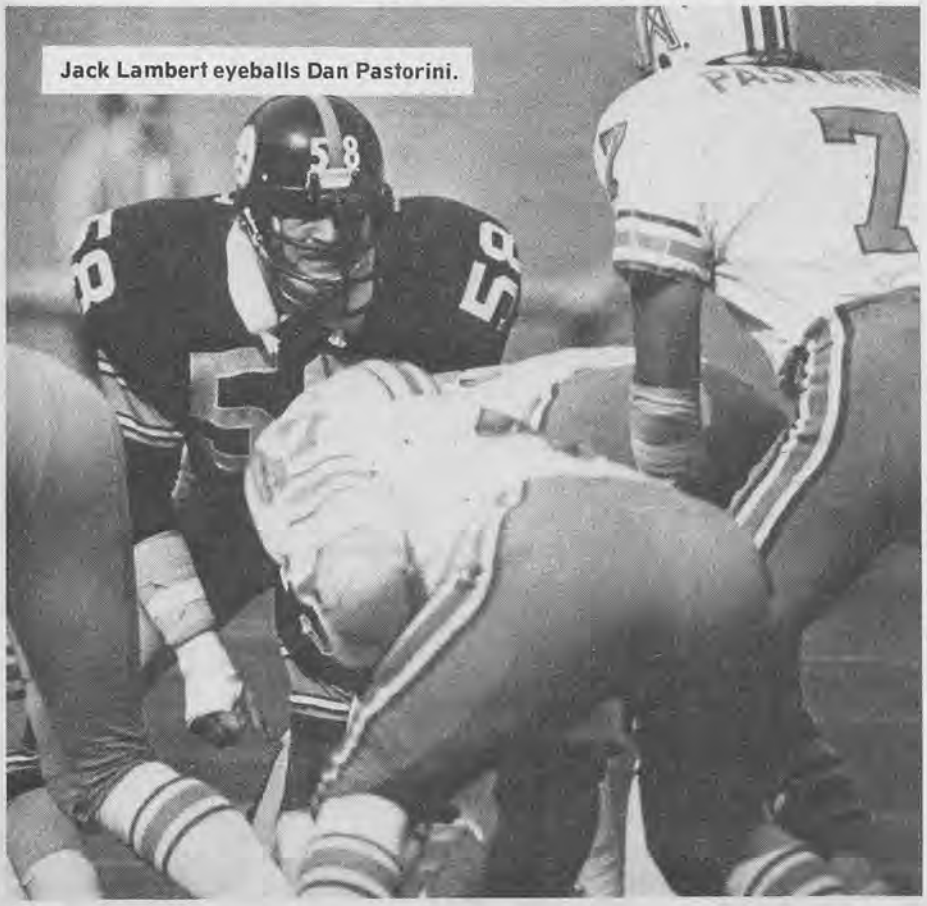
As it turned out, such was not to be the case, as the Steelers rebounded to score the go-ahead touchdown with a little over three minutes left in the game. From that point, Pittsburgh's man-eating defensive unit took control, twice turning back desperate New England scoring bids in the waning moments to hang on for the 28-24 victory.

"Yes, indeed, Giffer, a classic struggle in every sense, a game from which legends will surely spring!"

"Why don't you stuff it, Howard!"

No, we'll be the first to admit it can't happen that way in Super Bowl XIV -- even if the BEST GAME would be between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots. In reality, it'll probably be a re-match between Pittsburgh and the Dallas Cowboys, with the Steelers prevailing, 24-17.

But just think -- wouldn't it be fitting if Mortimer Snerd really was Humble Howie's sidekick in the broadcast booth? Wouldn't it be fun if Alex Karras actually was the NFL commissioner? And last, but not least, wouldn't it be something if the Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots really could meet for all the marbles in Super Bowl XIV?!!



Jack Lambert eyeballs Dan Pastorini.

The Money Hour.

"**The Money Hour**" is the phrase that many subscribers to the famed **SCORE Late Telephone Service** use to describe the time when they call (on our **Toll-Free WATS 800** lines) for our College and N.F.L. releases each weekend. Why? Because for **seven** straight years the **SCORE Late Telephone Service** has been beating "The Linemaker at his own game and helping to make our clients rich $ $ $

Year after year, in survey after survey, **SCORE** has consistently been ranked **# 1.** Recently, the **New York Post** published the results of their national survey which documented the 1978 record of twenty-four of the nation's leading football forecasters. Again this year, **SCORE'S Late Telephone Service** finished first. The results of the **New York Post** survey are reprinted in the box on the right.

If you would like a copy of the **New York Post** article, **FREE** information about **SCORE'S Late Telephone Service**, or, if you would like a **FREE** issue of the 16 page **SCORE Newsletter**, fill out and mail in the coupon below or dial **617-482-0505** and ask for either **Bob Dunbar** or **Bill Hilton.** Remember, it's fun to **SCORE $ $ $ $ $**

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2. Volition Co., 10-4, 71%
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14. Am'can Weekly Sports, 33-31, 51%
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17. **DANNY SHERIDAN, 24-23, 51%**
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The Stat-Key Annual

The Stat-Key Annual is designed to measure the potential of football teams in terms of rated "power." It was developed and tested in previous seasons by the GamePlan Analysts. The Stat-Key Annual appears in GamePlan Magazines to enhance the fan's enjoyment of the game of professional football by emphasizing the factors which affect the outcome of competition. The Stat-Key Table on page 16 rates the scoring potential of all 28 teams in the National Football League.

The Stat-Key Annual enables the fan to estimate point differences between the scores of opposing teams. The Offensive and Defensive ratings enable the fan to estimate the score of each of two opposing teams—an Instant PrePlay of a game. The Stat-Key Annual allows the fan to readily compare and analyze the power of competing teams prior to game play. It offers the fan a key to the analysis of professional football.

Developing the Stat-Key System

In the Stat-Key Table, each of the 28 teams has a Power Rating, an Offensive Rating and a Defensive Rating. These ratings are developed between football seasons by the GamePlan Analysts. In developing the Stat-Key Annual, the analysts thoroughly evaluate the factors that they feel most strongly influence (and reflect) a professional football team's scoring ability:

1. Each team's scoring record and final power ratings from the previous season.
2. Retirements, trades and age factors.
3. A careful evaluation of the rookie crop.
4. Strength of schedule.
5. Each team's detailed statistics from previous season play.
6. Changes in coaching staff (and coaching methods).

The above factors are evaluated and quantified. Factors such as "scoring record," "losses and gains in key players," and "Strength of opponents" are weighed more heavily than others. A relatively complicated process of analysis follows and eventually refined ratings (printed in the Stat-Key Table) are developed. These ratings, then, represent each team's potential in terms of rated power at the start of the 1979 season.

No system can predict the outcome of football competition precisely. There are simply too many variables, many developing during actual game play. The excitement and spontaneity of football are indeed the main reasons for its great popularity as a spectator sport. Thus, the Stat-Key Annual is designed to: 1) provide the fan with basic estimates of team strength, which reflect a team's scoring ability under totally neutral conditions; 2) make the fan aware of those factors (other than team strength) which influence the outcome of games; 3) encourage the fan to draw on his own knowledge of the game, and to employ his own judgment, in weighing influencing factors; and 4) enable the fan to derive greater overall pleasure and satisfaction during the season.

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Using The Stat-Key System

In the Stat-Key Table, Each team has three ratings:

Power Rating (PR)
Offensive Rating (OR)
Defensive Rating (DR)

These ratings, allow the user to:

I. Estimate the PROBABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCORES of opposing teams.

The Power Rating of the lower rated team is deducted from the Power Rating of the higher rated team. The result is the number of points by which the higher rated team is expect to win.

Example:

Chicago Power Rating	118
Green Bay Power Rating	115

Chicago to win by 3 points.

II. Get an Instant Preplay of a game (estimate the PROBABLE SCORE of each of two opposing teams.)

The Offensive Rating of a given team, minus the Defensive Rating of its opponent is the estimated score for the given team.

Example:

Chicago Offensive Rating	71
Green Bay Defensive Rating	46

Chicago to score 25 points.

Green Bay Offensive Rating	69
Chicago Defensive Rating	47

Green Bay to score 22 points.

The Instant PrePlay (estimated game score) is then,
Chicago 25, Green Bay 22

Stat-Key Rating Table
for National Football League

Includes Conference, Division Ranking for Start of 1979 Season

PR = Power Rating OR = Offensive Rating DR = Defensive Rating

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CONF. AVG. PR= 117.1	PR	OR	DR
Eastern Division DIV. AVG. = 118.0			
Dallas Cowboys	123	74	49
Philadelphia Eagles	118	72	46
St. Louis Cardinals	118	72	46
Washington Redskins	116	70	46
New York Giants	115	69	46
Central Division DIV. AVG. PR= 116.8			
Detroit Lions	120	73	47
Chicago Bears	118	71	47
Minnesota Vikings	118	72	46
Green Bay Packers	115	69	46
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	113	67	46
Western Division DIV. AVG. PR= 116.5			
Los Angeles Rams	121	72	49
New Orleans Saints	118	72	46
Atlanta Falcons	117	68	49
San Francisco 49ers	110	67	43

AMERICAN CONFERENCE CONF. AVG. PR= 119.5	PR	OR	DR
Eastern Division DIV. AVG. PR= 118.8			
New England Patriots	123	74	49
Miami Dolphins	120	74	46
New York Jets	119	74	45
Buffalo Bills	117	72	45
Baltimore Colts	115	70	45
Central Division DIV. AVG. PR= 121.0			
Pittsburgh Steelers	125	75	50
Houston Oilers	121	73	48
Cincinnati Bengals	120	72	48
Cleveland Browns	118	72	46
Western Division DIV. AVG. PR= 118.6			
Denver Broncos	121	72	49
San Diego Chargers	120	73	47
Oakland Raiders	120	73	47
Seattle Seahawks	119	74	45
Kansas City Chiefs	113	67	46

Adjusting Stat-Key™ Estimates

The final outcome of a football game is influenced by many factors other than team strength. Meaning each game will be played with a number of elements affecting it. The pro game is affected by many of the same things that influence college games, such as home team advantage, strength of opponents on the schedule, weather and injuries. But there is one factor that is unique to pro ball: the professional player.

The professional football player, unlike his college counterpart, is playing the game for a living. He knows that inconsistency—failure to do his job and do it well—jeopardizes his pay check.

This player is a professional, trained in his trade. Because he is a professional among professionals, there is less of an ability gap among pro players than among college players. For example, if Cornell were to play Texas 100 times this fall, on Cornell's home field or on a neutral field, the Cornellians would undoubtedly lose all 100 encounter. In contrast, on any given day the Atlanta Falcons could travel to Miami and defeat the Dolphins.

Other factors that may affect pro games include.

Home Team Advantage

A home team has an advantage over an opponent by being more familiar with the field, surroundings and local climate. Ardent supporters in the stands and not having to travel add to the advantage.

Strength of Oppoenents Played

A team accustomed to playing strong teams often will have an advantage over a team with weaker competition. This factor may reflect the edge the American Football Conference is reputed to have over the National Conference.

Weather

Bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, wind) may equalize the performances of teams with unequal scoring ability. Generally, bad weather reduces the scoring of both teams, though poor conditions may have less effect on teams with well-balanced offenses than teams depending mainly on either passing or rushing.

Personnel Changes

Losing players by injuries or suspension can definitely hamper a team's effectiveness. A player's performance may also be affected by good or adverse publicity and personal problems.

Rivalry

Long-standing "grudge" games such as those between Green Bay-Chicago, Los Angeles-San Francisco and Kansas City-Oakland often produce upsets because of deep emotions developed over many years.

The more important the factors, the more they will affect the accuracy of the Stat-Key estimated score. Basic estimates should be adjusted to a certain extent because of the outside factors which may even be strong enough to cause an upset. The point advantage for a given factor generally is from 1 to 10, depending on the amount of the influence. An example of the adjustments is given below.

Weekly updating is an all important aspect of the Stat-Key Annual because the scoring potential of professional football teams will usually undergo changes as the season progresses. Since each team's present ratings are based on their 1978 performance, as modified by evaluations of pre-season personnel changes, the accuracy of the present ratings can be justified only after actual game competition. It will be necessary to update the ratings after each week of play.

The GamePlan Analysts perform weekly analyses of, all games between the 28 rated teams. Many factors, including pre-game variables, are taken into account in determining updating requirements. To expect the reader to perform such complex weekly analysis would be out of line with our intention to keep the Stat-Key easy to use. To overcome this problem we have devised a simple formula enploying the chart (opposite page) to accomplish "ball park" updating. While this method is not exactly the same as that employed by the GamePlan Analysts, the very nature of the simplified process (Difference Splitting) brings the updated ratings closer to actual team strength after each week of play.

Stat-Key System in Use

Chicago	118	Power Rating
Green Bay	115	Power Rating
Chicago favored by	3	points
Chicago home advantage	+7	
Chicago to win by	10	points

Chicago	71	OR
Green Bay	46	DR
Chicago to score	25	points
Green Bay	69	OR
Chicago	47	DR
Green Bay to score	22	points

Score expected to vary by +7 points in Chicago's favor.

Updating the Stat-Key System

THE UPDATING PROCEDURE

The Updating procedure is based on the variance (error) between estimated and actual differences in scores (or how far off the estimates were from actual scores). Note that adjustment factors (explained on previous page) need not be taken into account in updating the bassic ratings.

Updating is achieved with this easy to use chart → The chart shows the number of points to be added to or deducted from team ratings for a given variance between the estimated and actual difference in scores.

Example:

From Stat-Key Power Ratings

Chicago to win over
Green Bay by 3 points.

Hypothetical Result of Game

If Chicago won by 10 points.

Then Chicago won by 7 points more than estimated (variance). The chart shows that the amount of correction to ratings for a 7 point variance is

Power Rating ..... 1 point
Offensive Rating ..... 1 point
Defensive Rating ..... 0 points

These amounts are added to the ratings of the team that the variance was in favor of (Chicago), and subtracted from the ratings of the other team (Green Bay).

Thus, the ratings here would be updated as follows

Chicago	PR	OR	DR
original ratings	118	71	47
updated ratings	119	72	47

Green Bay	PR	OR	DR
original ratings	115	69	46
updated ratings	114	68	46

VARIANCE:	POINT CHANGE		
	In Power Rating	In Offensive Rating	In Defensive Rating
0 to 4	0	0	0
5 to 9	1	1	0
10 to 14	2	1	1
15 to 19	3	2	1
20 +	4	2	2

Note: There is less need for adjustment as the season progresses. It is recommended that the *amount of adjustment be limited to a maximum of 3 points after the fifth game, and 2 points after the eighth game of the season for each team.*

To make the Stat-Key easier to use, we recommend the reader make up simple forms, similar in design to the Stat-Key Table. If updating is accomplished properly, the reader will enjoy the use of the Stat-Key system for the entire season.

(For those readers who do not have the inclination or time to keep the Stat-Key updated and to adjust its estimates on a weekly and game by game basis, and for those who desire greater accuracy in updating and adjustment, GamePlan offers a weekly service throughout the season.) Just fill in the coupon and mail it with your check payable to GAMEPLAN MAGAZINES, INC.

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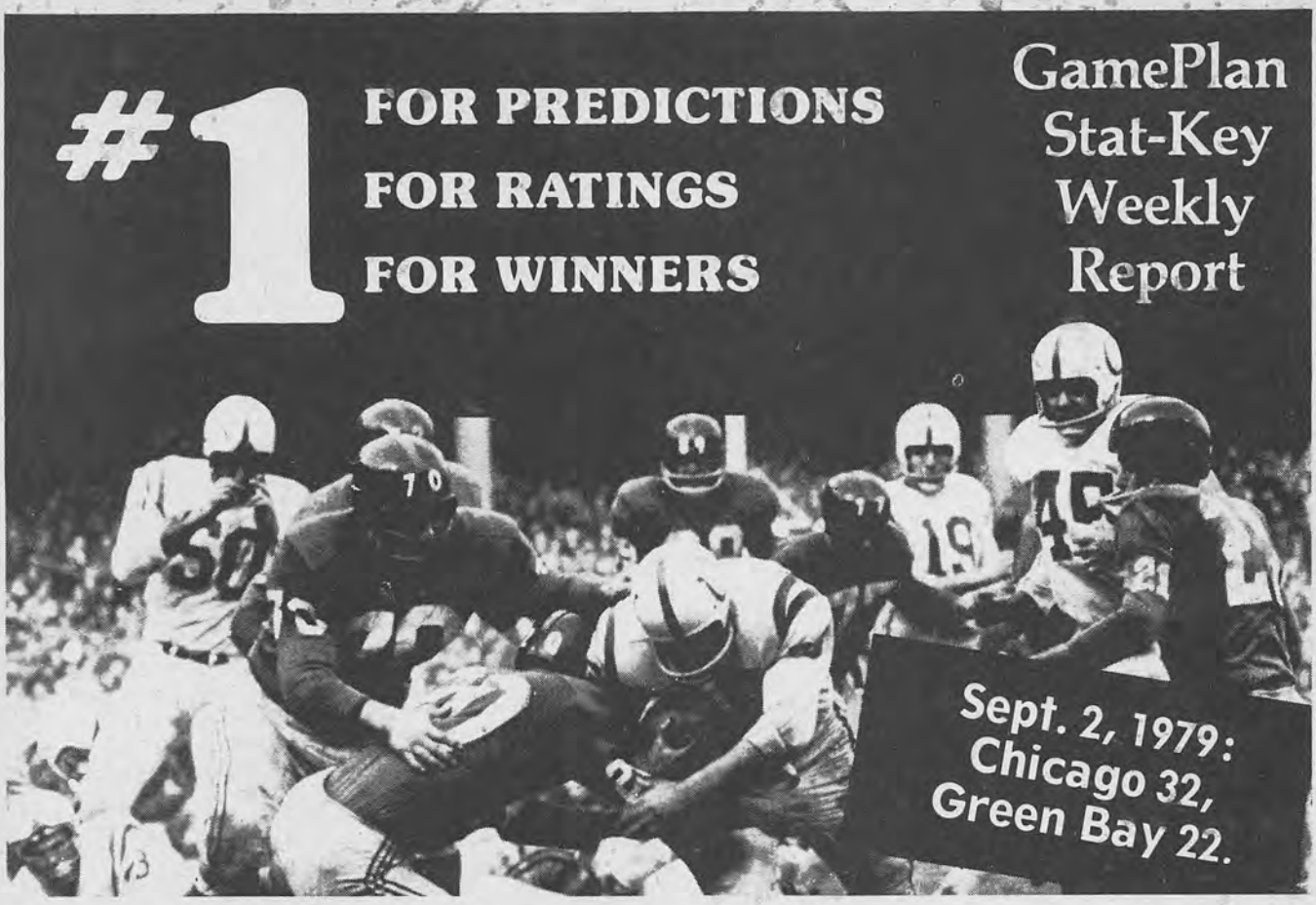

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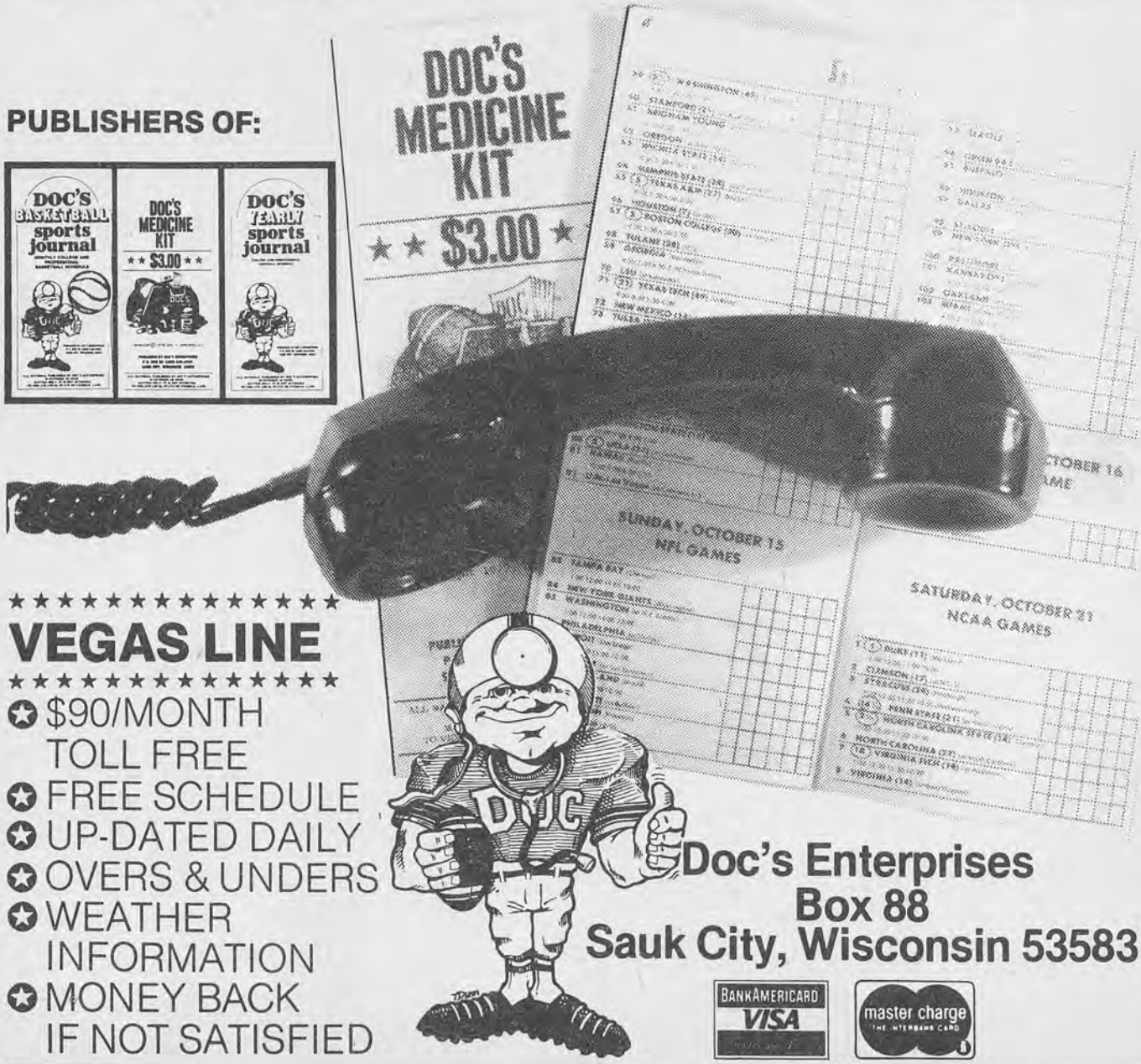

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Well, here we go again!

Taking our annual plunge into the shark-infested waters of the American Football Conference. Trying to pick THE TEAM from amongst a select group of powerful ball clubs that makes the rival NFC pale by comparison. Why, hell, just picking the correct order of finish in the three AFC divisions is enough all by itself to send most pre-season prognosticators to the funny farm.

Okay, before the guys in the white suits do show up, let's charge right into this risky business, starting in the AFC West -- where four different teams have the necessary horsepower to cart off the divisional title. See what we mean?

Coach Red Miller's Denver Broncos, AFC West kingpins the past two years, get our vote to stay on top in '79. Denver's title defense will be predicated on their superb "Orange Crush" defensive unit, with a large assist from an offensive unit that needs only more reliable blocking to start lighting up the sky over Mile High Stadium.

The rejuvenated San Diego Chargers, entering their first full year under Coach Don Coryell, will reward their long-suffering fans with a second place finish in the West. And should the youthful Chargers need any extra incentive to put forth another maximum effort, they need only look over their shoulders, where they'll find the Oakland Raiders. Under new Head Coach Tom Flores, the Raiders should be able to wipe out the memory of last year's dismal, dissension-wracked performance.

Led by their super-exciting quarterback, Jim Zorn, the Seattle Seahawks are destined to run fourth in the West -- which is nothing to be ashamed of considering the overall caliber of the division. To the rear, once again, will be the Kansas City Chiefs, rebuilding under Coach Marv Levy but still a few years away from being a title threat.

In the AFC Central, the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers loom as an odds-on favorite to rule the roost again. Coach Chuck Noll's gridders boast a dazzling array of offensive and defensive talent probably unmatched in all of pro football, and many folks are already making a reservation for the powerful Steelers in Super Bowl XIV.

Second in the AFC Central will be the Houston Oilers, who really hit a gusher last year when they drafted running back Earl Campbell, a one-man attack looking to win his second straight rushing title this season. The third rung in the Central Division will be occupied by the Cincinnati Bengals, another talented team anxious to expunge the memory of a miserable '78 performance. That leaves the Cleveland Browns to bring up the rear, although you can be sure Coach Sam Rutigliano's hard-working team will spring some upsets before the campaign is over.

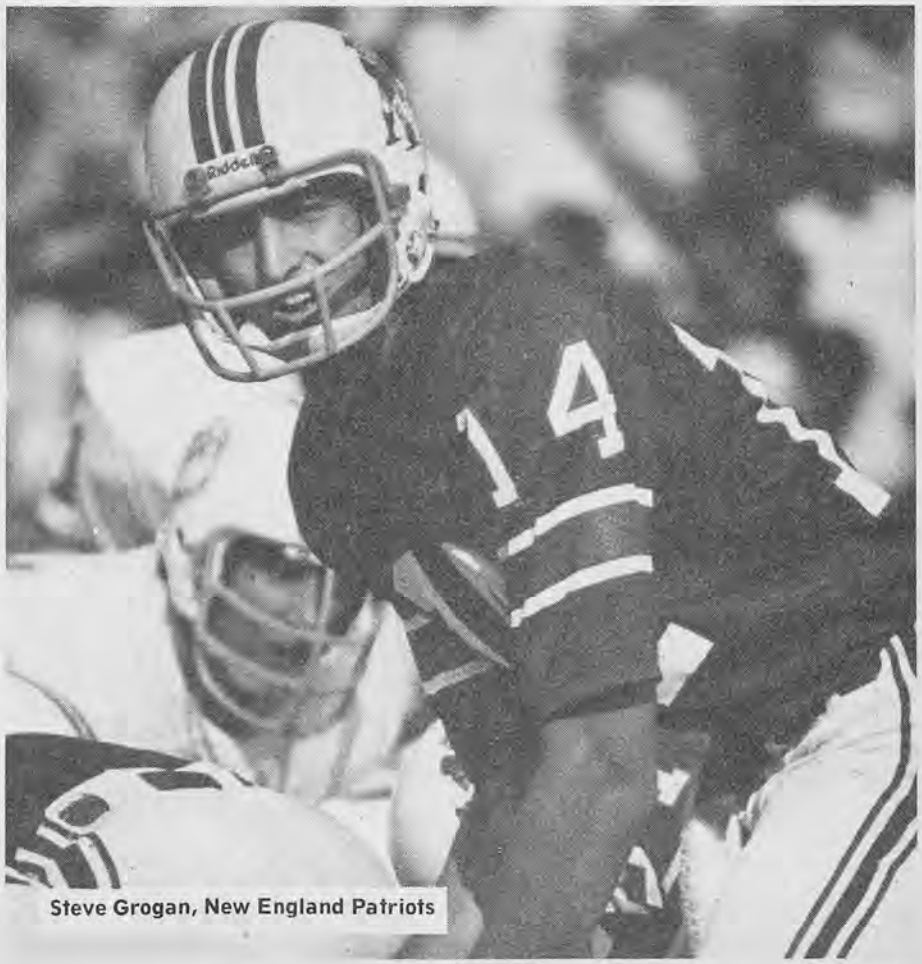
In our estimation, the only NFL team with as much sheer talent as the Steelers are the New England Patriots -- the people's choice to repeat as AFC East champions. The Pats will be led into combat by new skipper Ron Erhardt, formerly the team's offensive coordinator, which means there shouldn't be much of an adjustment required since the players are familiar with Erhardt, and vice versa.

Keeping the Patriots on their best behavior will be the Miami Dolphins, who should repeat as No. 2 and bid again for a Wild Card playoff berth. Injuries have been an ongoing problem for Coach Don Shula's team lately, but if extensive physical maladies can be avoided, the Dolphins will make a strong bid for the top spot in the East.

Coach Lou Michaels' vastly improved, but still young-ish, New York Jets are coming off their best season in a long time, and their momentum will enable them to finish third in the division. Another relatively young ball club, the Buffalo Bills, will go head-to-head with the Baltimore Colts to see who winds up in the AFC East basement. The Colts get our vote to bring up the rear, although they just might make us regret that prediction if Coach Ted Marchibroda can get a reliable and injury-free performance from his team.

When playoff time rolls around this season, naturally, the Pittsburgh Steelers will make their hefty presence felt by virtue of winning the AFC Central title. Also projected as divisional champions are Denver (West) and New England (East), with the two Wild Card playoff berths being coveted again by Miami and Houston. Not to be taken lightly as Wild Card prospects are the San Diego Chargers and two teams with excellent potential provided they get their bleep acts together -- Oakland and Cincinnati.

There, it's said and done, our 1979 American Football Conference preview is complete. Now, you'll have to excuse us because someone is knocking on our door -- two guys in white suits carrying this funny looking jacket that has straps all over it.



Steve Grogan, New England Patriots

AFC EAST

Delvin Williams, Miami Dolphins

New England Patriots

(11-6-0)

One of these years, it's bound to happen! One of these years, the extremely talented -- but often tumultuous-- Patriots will play one complete season without internal problems and show the rest of the NFL what a superb ball club they really are. Which just may occur this season, now that former top assistant Ron Erhardt has been elevated to the head coaching job in place of Colorado-bound Chuck Fairbanks.

Of the infamous and over-publicized "Fairbanks affair," the less said, the better. Except to note that his ill-timed decision to resign as head coach, coming just when the Patriots were getting ready for last year's championship playoffs, clearly had an unsettling effect on the team. Anyone who saw the Pats get blown out of the playoffs, 34-14, by the Houston Oilers could see that.

OFFENSE: The sparkplug that ignites a strong and balanced attack is quarterback Steve Grogan, who passes for 2,824 yards and 15 TDs on 181-362 aerial completions last season. Grogan, the best running quarterback in pro football, also rambled for 539 yards and scored five times on the ground. Despite his all-out playing style, Grogan has amazing durability, starting for the Patriots in 49 consective regular season games.

The most accomplished reserve quarterback is Tom Owen, an excellent passer who connected on 58 percent (15-26) of his aerials in relief roles last season. Although he didn't play a single down in '78 as a rookie, Matt Cavanaugh has outstanding potential and could be the team's signal caller of the future.

First and foremost of the receivers is tight end Russ Francis, team leader in '78 with 39 receptions for 543 yards and four touchdowns. Francis, a dangerous pass catcher with exceptional quickness for a tight end, is also a ferocious blocker. There's very little drop-off in reserve strength at tight end where the premier back-up is Don Hasselbeck.

The wide receiving corps was dealt a tragic blow prior to the start of last season when Darryl Stingley was seriously hurt, and we join with many others in wishing this fine young man a speedy and complete recovery. Tops among the wideouts is veteran Harold Jackson, a former All-Pro with the LA Rams acquired in a trade just before the '78 campaign started. Jackson wound up his first year with the Patriots catching 37 passes for a sparkling 20.1-yard average and six TDs.

Blasting off from the other wide receiving berth is Stanley Morgan, who had an even more impressive per-catch average (24.1-yards) and scored five times on 34 catches last season. Carlos Pennywell and Don Westbrook are the leading reserves at the wide spots, and while both have ability, their play has been limited to the Special Teams thus far.

The Patriots set an NFL one-season record in '78, when they had four different ball carriers (including QG Steve Grogan) rush for more than 500 yards. The numero uno running threat, Sam Cunningham, ripped for 768 yards and eight touchdowns on 199 attempts. That rushing total was down a bit from two years ago, when the "Bammer" exploded for 1,015 yards, although he doesn't get as many carries because of the superb balance of the rushing attack.

Andy Johnson, who pitched in with 675 yards last season, starts at the other running back spot. But that certainly doesn't mean he overshadows Horace Ivory, who detonated for 693 yards and 11 TDs in '78. Rounding out what is generally regarded as the best stable of ball carriers in the NFL are Don Calhoun, Jimmy McAlister and Mosi Tatupu.

Obviously, the attack could not pack such a strong wallop were it not for the offensive interior line, perhaps the premier blocking corps in the business. Showing the way are All-Pros John Hannah (guard) and Leon Gray (tackle), both of whom start on the left side -- which tells you why the Patriots run so much of their offense in that direction.

Opposite them at guard and tackle are Sam Adams and Shelby Jordan, with Bill Lenkatis over the ball at center. Versatile Pete Brock, who can fill in at all three up front positions, heads the reserve cast. However, an injury outbreak of large proportion in the offensive line could prove fatal to the attack if Bob Cryder, No. 1 draft pick in '78, and Dwight Wheeler don't recover from injuries that laid them low last season.

DEFENSE: Considering the number of injuries that either knocked-out or bothered so many defensive players last season, the Patriots turned in another good showing. Their forte is stopping the run, which the Pats did extremely well with a meager 115.8-yards-per-game yield in '78. The pass defense needs improvement after surrendering 21 touchdown aerials a year ago, which should be an easy task to accomplish if the defensive line members, most notably end Julius Adams, stay healthier and beef up the pass rush.

Adams, who went down for the count in the first '78 regular season game, is reportedly mended and set to go at his old flank spot. Steady veterans Mel Lunsford and Tony McGee share the other flank. Last season, for the fourth consecutive year, McGee led the Patriots

1979 Schedule

Sep	3	PITTSBURGH
Sep	9	NY JETS
Sep	16	Cincinnati
Sep	23	SAN DIEGO
Oct	1	Green Bay
Oct	7	DETROIT
Oct	14	Chicago
Oct	21	MIAMI
Oct	28	Baltimore
Nov	4	Buffalo
Nov	11	Denver
Nov	18	BALTIMORE
Nov	25	BUFFALO
Nov	29	Miami
Dec	9	NY Jets
Dec	16	MINNESOTA

Patriots	1978 Results	Opp
14	Washington	16
16	at St. Louis	6
27	Baltimore	34
21	at Oakland	14
28	San Diego	23
24	Philadelphia	14
10	at Cincinnati	7
33	Miami	24
55	N.Y. Jets	21
14	at Buffalo	10
23	Houston	26
19	at N.Y. Jets	17
35	at Baltimore	14
10	at Dallas	17
26	Buffalo	24
3	at Miami	23

New England Patriots Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Sanford, Rick	DB	6-2	181	South Carolina
Golic, Bob	LB	6-3	244	Notre Dame
Hare, Eddie	P	6-0	190	Tulsa
Zamberlin, John	LB	6-2	220	Pacific Lutheran
Flint, Judson	LB	6-1	200	Memphis St
Spagnola, John	TE	6-3	210	Yale
Cox, Martin	WR	6-0	179	Vanderbilt
Clark, Allan	RB	5-11	200	N'thern Arizona

in quarterback sacks with 11½. Dennis Boyd, who filled in for Adams and played well until he, too, was felled by injury, also has starting experience on the outside.

Smack in the middle of the front wall is nose guard Raymond Hamilton, leading tackler among the down linemen last season and one of the premier "nose" men in the league. Providing superior depth at that position is Richard Bishop, who switched to a flank spot last year when Adams and Boyd got hurt and did an outstanding job once he adjusted.

Injuries created some problems at linebacker last season, but still and all, this hard-hitting gang was (and still is!) the strongpoint of the New England defense. Occupying the two middle spots in the four-man 'backer corps are Sam Hunt and Steve Nelson, with support from Bill Matthews, Mike Hawkins and Ken Coleman, the latter back from the injured ranks. Nelson is an underrated standout who paced the team with 98 tackles and finished second with five pass interceptions last season.

On the outside are Steve Zabel and Rod Shoate, both solid defenders when they're healthy, which wasn't always the case last season. Should their physical maladies turn out to be of a long-term nature, their jobs will go to Steve King and Ray Costict. But don't interpret that to mean the linebacking play will suffer, because King and Costict are both "hitters" from the word go!

Rounding out what is a super defensive unit is a corps of light-fingered pass thiefs who roam the secondary. The quickest hands, and toughest demeanor, belong to cornerback Mike Haynes, an All-Pro who made off with six enemy passes last season, running one of those thefts back for a touchdown.

At the other corner is another potential all-star, Raymond Clayborn, who notched four interceptions in '78 and returned 27 kickoffs for a 23.6-yard average. The one -- and only -- experienced reserve at cornerback is Sidney Brown, which bothers us since the injury-ratio at this position is pretty high.

The free safety position is more than adequately filled by Tim Fox, leading tackler in the secondary last season and a tenacious pass defender who sticks to enemy receivers like Elmer's Glue. At the end of the '78 campaign, Doug Beaudoin was stationed at strong safety, with reserve help from Dick Conn. But returning from the injured ranks is the former regular at strong safety, Prentice McCray, and he will be a definite asset if he's right again.

The Patriots set some sort of record for misfortune last season, when both their punter (Mike Patrick) and their placekicker (John Smith) bit the dust with injuries and had to be replaced. Ultimately, David Posey wound up handling placement duties last season, while ex-Kansas City Chief Jerrel Wilson filled the punter's job. But neither is expected to be around again this season, and with Patrick and Smith healthy again, the kicking game will be stronger.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Again last season, internal disharmony proved the undoing of the Patriots -- which was really a shame since they looked like the only genuine threat to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the American Conference title chase. This year, with Ron Erhardt moving up as head coach and all the assistants coaches still around, the Patriots once again look like championship material. Steve Grogan runs the offensive show, although he's a long way from being the brightest star in that galaxy. He has to share equal billing with the likes of RBs Cunningham and Ivory, TE Francis, WRs Jackson and Morgan, linemen Hannah and Gray -- and so forth! Put it all together and it comes up to offensive excellence, either on the ground or through the air. The defense is just as impressive, so long as injuries aren't a factor, especially at linebacker, where the 3-4 alignment places an inordinately heavy burden. The Patriots, who should win another AFC EAst title in their first campaign under Coach Erhardt, definitely have the talent on hand to enjoy a "Super" season.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Grogan	362/181	23	2824	15
Owen	26/15	2	182	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jackson	37	743	20.1	6
Francis	39	543	13.9	4
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Haynes	6	123	20.5	1
Nelson	5	104	20.8	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Cunningham	199	768	3.9	8
Ivory	141	693	4.9	11
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Wilson	54	1921	35.6	0
Patrick	7	216	31.1	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Ivory	11	0/0	0/0	66
Posey	0	29/31	11/22	62

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	PATRIOTS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	322	158
NET RUSH	3165	1852
Avg Per Game	197.8	115.8
NET PASS	2800	2763
Att/Comp	390/196	425/235
Had Int	25	22
Avg Per Game	175	172.7
PUNTS/AVG	61/35.0	78/39.5
Punts Return/Yds	47/520	29/282
Avg Per Return	11.1	9.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	55/1172	69/1576
Avg Per Return	21.3	22.8
FUMBLES/LOST	35/21	34/21
FIELD GOALS	12/24	9/19
PATS	42/46	31/38
TOTAL POINTS	358	286

New England Patriots 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
85	Adams, Julius	DE	6-4	263	31	8	Texas Southern	1
61	Adams, Sam	G	6-3	260	31	7	Prairie View	16
27	Beaudoin, Doug	S	6-1	190	24	3	Minnesota	15
64	Bishop, Richard	NT	6-1	260	24	3	Louisville	16
65	Boyd, Greg	DE	6-6	275	23	2	San Diego State	10
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5	260	23	3	Colorado	15
21	Brown, Sidney	CB	6-0	186	22	1	Oklahoma	16
44	Calhoun, Don	RB	6-0	212	27	5	Kansas State	14
12	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-1	210	21	0	Pittsburgh	0
87	Chandler, Al	TE	6-3	229	28	5	Oklahoma	4
26	Clayborn, Raymond	C B / K R	6-1	190	23	2	Texas	16
95	Coleman, Kem	LB	6-3	243	22	0	Mississippi	0
22	Conn, Dick	S	6-0	180	28	5	Georgia	15
55	Costict, Ray	LB	6-0	218	23	2	Mississippi State	16
75	Cryder, Bob	G	6-4	265	21	0	Alabama	5
39	Cunningham, Sam	RB	6-3	230	29	6	Southern California	16
76	Cusick, Pete	NT	6-1	255	26	2	Ohio State	0
68	Falcon, Terry	G	6-3	260	21	0	Montana	8
48	Fox, Tim	S	5-11	190	23	3	Ohio State	16
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	26	4	Oregon	15
70	Gray, Leon	T	6-3	260	28	6	Jackson State	16
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	208	26	4	Kansas State	16
71	Hamilton, Raymond	NT	6-1	245	28	6	Oklahoma	16
73	Hannah, John	G	6-2	265	28	6	Alabama	16
80	Hasselbeck, Don	TE	6-7	245	23	2	Colorado	16
59	Hawkins, Mike	LB	6-2	232	21	0	Texas A & I	12
40	Haynes, Mike	CB/PR	6-2	195	24	3	Arizona State	16
63	Holmes, Ernie	NT	6-3	260	29	7	Texas Southern	3
50	Hunt, Sam	LB	6-1	253	28	5	Stephen F. Austin	15
23	Ivory, Horace	RB	6-0	198	23	2	Oklahoma	15
29	Jackson, Harold	WR	5-10	175	33	11	Jackson State	16
32	Johnson, Andy	RB	6-0	204	27	4	Georgia	15
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	260	27	3	Washington (MO)	16
52	King, Steve	OB	6-4	230	28	6	Tulsa	16
53	Krakau, Merv	LB	6-2	233	28	6	Iowa State	1
67	Lenkaitis, Bill	C	6-4	255	33	11	Penn State	16
7	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	187	21	0	Dartmouth	2
72	Lunsford, Mel	DE	6-3	260	28	6	Central (OH) State	16
37	McAlister, James	RB/KR	6-1	210	24	3	UCLA	16
34	McCray, Prentice	S	6-1	190	28	5	Arizona State	8
78	McGee, Tony	DE	6-4	250	30	8	Bishop	16
66	McKay, Bob	T	6-5	265	28	9	Texas	13
49	Matthews, Bill	LB	6-2	235	21	0	South Dakota State	0
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR/PR	5-11	180	23	2	Tennessee	16
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	28	5	North Dakota State	14
17	Owen, Tom	QB	6-1	194	27	5	Wichita State	2
2	Patrick, Mike	P	6-0	190	27	4	Mississippi State	1
88	Pennywell, Carlos	WR	6-2	180	21	0	Grambling	16
9	Posey, David	K	5-11	167	23	1	Florida	11
53	Romaniszyn, Jim	LB	6-1	220	27	4	Edinboro (PA)	0
76	Schaum, Greg	DE	6-4	255	24	2	Michigan State	14

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Miami Dolphins

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In some ways, the Miami Dolphins remind you of American Telephone and Telegraph. For instance, while AT&T is always a favorite on the NY Stock Exchange, the Dolphins usually rank high on the NFL index. And when it comes to dynamic leadership, a chairman of the board with proven ability, the Dolphins could nominate head coach Don Shula for executive-of-the-year.

In 17 years as skipper of the Baltimore Colts and Dolphins, Shula has hung up a glittering record of success, despite the inevitable turnovers in player personnel that occur. Consistency. That's Mr. Shula's hallmark, his reputation as an astute judge of talent who always seems to come up with the right player at the right time.

A year ago, for example, the Dolphins needed a truly outstanding ball carrier to power their rushing attack. Someone on the order of a Larry Csonka or Mercury Morris, 1,000-yard men during Miami's Super Bowl title days.

Enter Delvin Williams, a Shula acquisition via trade with the San Francisco 49ers for Vern Roberson, Freddie Solomon and a couple of draft choices. Shame on you, Don Shula!

OFFENSE: In his first season with Miami, Williams exceeded even Shula's expectations, rushing for 1,258 yards and eight TDs on 272 sorties. The elusive speedster from Kansas supercharged the team's ground attack with his outside running ability, and Williams also impressed as a pass receiver and blocker.

Stationed at the other running back is Leroy Harris, who belted for 512 yards last year. Harris is a low-slung powerhouse (5-9, 220) who picks up most of his yardage running inside, which makes him the perfect complement for running mate Williams.

The Dolphin pantry is also well-stocked with reserve ball carriers, several of whom started games in the past. Foremost of that group are Gary Davis, who averaged a team high 5.0 yards a carry last year, Norm Bulaich and Jim Braxton, the latter an ex-Buffalo Bill regular. But the ball toter who may kindle the most excitement is Larry Csonka, the former Dolphin great resigned by Miami after playing the past few years with the NY Giants.

Unleashing that hoard of talented runners is quarterback Bob Griese, who gives the offense balance with his pinpoint passing. A year ago, after missing the early part of the season with an injury, Griese returned to rifle strikes on 148 of 235 passes, a 63.0 percent completion ratio that was the highest in the NFL. He also tossed 11 scoring aerials in '78, a figure Griese will increase with more playing time.

The early-season injury suffered by Griese did benefit the Dolphins in one respect. It gave the team a real opportunity to examine No. 2 quarterback Don Strock, and he came through with flying colors – 72 of 135 pass completions, 12 for TDs. Also available is second-year pro Guy Benjamin, who saw only limited action in '78 but has a strong throwing arm.

Balance is the by-word when it comes to Miami's pass catching crew, because five different players caught 20 or more aerials last season. However, when you talk to opposing defensvie backs, the two Dolphins they fear most are wide receivers Nat Moore and Duriel Harris. A year ago, Moore led the team with 48 catches, ten of those going for scores. Close behind was Harris with 45 receptions and three TD grabs. Third on the '78 pass catching chart was tight end Andre Tillman with 31, and he's also a powerful blocker.

The back-up receivers are wide-outs Jimmy Cefalo and Bo Rather and tight ends Loaird McCreary and Bruce Hardy. Cefalo made a splashy debut as a '78 rookie, when three of his six pass receptions went for TDs, and he's sure to challenge for more playing time in the future.

Sizing up the offensive interior line, the powerful Dolphin trench crew turned in another outstanding job last year despite injuries to several regulars. One of those injured, long-time guard stalwart Larry Little, finished last year on the sidelines, but he's recovered and rarin' to go again. Pro Bowler Bob Kuchenberg plugs the other guard hole, with fellow all-star Jim Langer in the middle at the pivot spot.

Outside at the tackles are Wayne Moore and Mike Current, dependable pass blockers with 9 and 12 years of NFL experience, respectively. Overall, that gives Miami a stalwart front wall so far as starters are concerned, but what of reserve strength in this area? Quite frankly, the prospect of having Wally Pesuit, Marvin Mitchell or Eric Laakso -- foremost line reserves -- replace the likes of Langer, Kuchenberg or Little scares the hell out of us. And should such a thing come to pass, the Dolphin offense may start to flounder like a fish out of water.

DEFENSE: The names and faces have changed, but one thing has remained constant during the Shula years in Miami -- the Dolphins usually field one of the better defensive units in pro ball. We say "usually" because last season, primarily in the early stages of the campaign, enemy passers had a field day against Miami's defensive secondary.

There were two reasons for that,

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Buffalo
Sep	9	SEATTLE
Sep	16	Minnesota
Sep	23	CHICAGO
Sep	30	NY Jets
Oct	8	Oakland
Oct	14	BUFFALO
Oct	21	New England
Oct	28	GREEN BAY
Nov	5	HOUSTON
Nov	11	BALTIMORE
Nov	18	Cleveland
Nov	25	Baltimore
Nov	29	NEW ENGLAND
Dec	9	Detroit
Dec	15	NY JETS

Dolphins	1978 Results	Opp
20	at N.Y. Jets	33
42	at Baltimore	0
31	Buffalo	24
3	at Philadelphia	17
24	St. Louis	10
21	Cincinnati	0
28	at San Diego	21
24	at New England	33
26	Baltimore	8
23	Dallas	16
25	at Buffalo	24
30	at Houston	35
13	N.Y. Jets	24
16	at Washington	0
23	Oakland	6
23	New England	3

Miami Dolphins Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Giesler, Jon	OT	6-4	265	Michigan
Toews, Jeff	OT	6-3	260	Washington
Nathan, Tony	RB	6-2	195	Alabama
Land, Mel	LB	6-3	224	Michigan St
Lee, Ron	TE	6-4	254	Baylor
Howell, Steve	RB	6-2	218	Baylor
Bessillieu, Don	DB	6-2	184	Georgia Tech
Lindquist, Steve	OG	6-6	250	Nebraska
von Schamann, Uwe	K	6-2	175	Oklahoma
Groth, Jeff	WR	5-11	175	Bowling Green
Weston, Jeff	DT	6-4	258	Notre Dame
Stanton, Jerome	DB	6-0	175	Michigan St
Kozlowski, Mike	RB	6-2	190	Colorado
Blanton, Mike	DE	6-5	254	Georgia Tech
Fortner, Larry	QB	6-4	195	Miami, Ohio

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1978 TOTAL COLLEGE AND PRO RECORD = 70.4%

1976 TOTAL COLLEGE AND PRO RECORD = 71.3%

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neither of which had anything to do with the secondary crew. The two reasons were Messers A.J. Duhe and Bob Baumhower, a pair of merciless pass rushers who missed the early '78 action with injuries.

Once they returned, Duhe at end and Baumhower at nose guard, to re-join end Vern Den Herder up front, the pass rush quickly went from pussycat to snarling tiger. That's the way the Dolphins want to keep it, too, so the line regulars will have to stay healthy or the passing defense will suffer again.

The most promising reserve up front is second-year pro Doug Betters, who filled in when Duhe was hurt in '78 and came up with four QB sacks. But should the Dolphins have to dig much deeper into the reserve cupboard, they're liable to feel like Old Mother Hubbard – because its pretty bare.

The Dolphins boast a linebacking corps so deep and so talented that enemy defensive coaches must drool everytime they look at this superb line-up. For openers, how about outside linebackers Kim Bokamper and Larry Gordon, without question, two of the finest young 'backers in the league. Last season, Bokamper made 124 total tackles, but even more noteworthy, the agile giant (6-6, 245) finished tied for second on the team with eight sacks. Gordon added 102 total tackles, plus 4½ sacks, and he's almost as big at 6-4 and 230.

Manning the two inside 'backer spots in the team's four-man set-up are Rusty Chambers and Steve Towle. Chambers led the club last season in total tackles with 151, while Towle got in on 109 and also recovered a team-high three fumbles.

Tops among the reserves at linebacker are former regular Bob Matheson and Earnest Rhone, both capable of filling in should the need arise. But a major outbreak of injuries at the 'backer spots, where the Dolphins are spread pretty thin with their four-man set-up, could cause problems.

Like we said earlier, Miami's secondary was burned early in the season, but they were downright stingy once their teammates in the line beefed up their pass rush. In terms of pass interceptions and total tackles, the crew in the deep zones was paced by strong safety Tim Foley, who swiped six aerials and stuck his nose in on 99 tackles last season. Patrolling the free safety spot is seven-year veteran Charlie Babb, who picked off three enemy aerials.

Stationed at the cornerback positions are Norris Thomas and Gerald Small, both relative youngsters with good speed and hitting ability. Thomas and Small each returned a pass interception for a touchdown in '78. Backing up at the corners is former regular Curtis Johnson, although he's played out his option and is now a free agent. The other foremost reserve in the deep zones, Rick Volk, is also on the free agent market as of this writing, and if both ink pacts with other NFL teams, it will make depth in this area very weak.

Still another Miami player on the free agent block is long-time placekicker Garo Yepremian, who turned in a superb

Miami Dolphins 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
76	Alexander, John	DE	6-2	250	24	3	Rutgers	8
49	Babb, Charlie	S	6-0	190	29	8	Memphis State	16
78	Barisich, Carl	DT	6-4	255	28	7	Princeton	16
73	Baumhower, Bob	DT	6-5	258	24	3	Alabama	16
7	Benjamin, Guy	QB	6-3	210	24	2	Stanford	3
75	Betters, Doug	DE	6-7	250	23	2	Nevada/Reno	16
58	Bokamper, Kim	LB	6-6	245	25	3	San Jose State	16
34	Braxton, Jim	FB	6-1	240	30	9	West Virginia	16
31	Bulaich, Norm	FB	6-1	212	33	10	Texas Christian	16
81	Cefalo, Jimmy	WR	5-11	190	23	2	Penn State	16
51	Chambers, Rusty	LB	6-1	220	26	5	Tulane	16
57	Clancy, Sean	LB	6-3	218	23	2	Amherst	16
20	Colzie, Neal	S-CB	6-2	205	26	5	Ohio St.	16
44	Cornelius, Charles	CB	5-9	178	27	3	Bethune-Cookman	16
39	Csonka, Larry	FB	6-3	235	33	11	Syracuse	16
71	Current, Mike	T	6-4	270	34	13	Ohio State	16
27	Davis, Gary	RB	5-10	202	25	4	Cal Poly	14
83	Den Herder, Vern	DE	6-6	252	31	9	Central Iowa	16
77	Duhe, A.J.	DE	6-4	247	24	3	Louisiana State	13
25	Foley, Tim	S-CB	6-0	194	31	9	Purdue	16
50	Gordon, Larry	LB	6-4	230	26	4	Arizona State	16
12	Griese, Bob	QB	6-1	190	34	13	Purdue	11
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-4	235	23	2	Arizona State	16
82	Harris, Duriel	WR	5-11	175	25	4	New Mexico State	16
38	Harris, Leroy	FB	5-9	220	25	3	Arkansas State	15
88	Henry, Lloyd	WR	6-3	208	24	0	Northeast Missouri	-
67	Kuechenberg, Bob	G-T	6-2	255	32	10	Notre Dame	16
68	Laakso, Eric	G-T	6-4	265	23	2	Tulane	16
62	Langer, Jim	C	6-2	253	31	10	South Dakota State	16
66	Little, Larry	G-T	6-1	265	34	13	Bethune-Cookman	16
53	Matheson, Bob	LB	6-4	235	35	13	Duke	12
80	McCreary, Loaird	TE	6-5	227	26	4	Tennessee State	16
60	Mitchell, Melvin	G	6-2	260	26	4	Tennessee State	4
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	180	28	6	Florida	16
64	Newman, Ed	G-T	6-2	245	28	7	Duke	12
65	Pesuit, Wally	G-C	6-4	250	25	3	Kentucky	16
85	Rather, Bo	WR	6-1	183	29	7	Michigan	3
55	Rhone, Earnest	LB	6-2	212	26	4	Henderson State	16
4	Roberts, George	P	6-0	172	24	2	Virginia Tech	16
70	Simpson, Bob	DT	6-5	235	25	2	Colorado	5
48	Small, Gerald	CB	5-11	187	23	2	San Jose State	16
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	220	29	6	Virginia Tech	16
41	Thomas, Norris	CB	5-11	175	25	3	Southern Mississippi	16
87	Tillman, Andre	TE	6-5	230	27	5	Texas Tech	16
56	Towle, Steve	LB	6-2	233	26	5	Kansas	13
24	Williams, Delvin	RB	6-0	197	28	6	Kansas	16
1	Yepremian, Garo	K	5-8	175	35	12	No College	16
74	Young, Steve	T	6-8	263	26	3	Colorado	0

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Griese	235/148	11	1791	11
Strock	135/72	6	825	12
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Moore	48	646	13.5	10
D. Harris	45	654	14.5	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Foley	6	12	2.0	0
Small	4	157	39.2	1
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Williams	272	1258	4.6	8
L. Harris	123	512	4.2	2
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Roberts	81	3263	40.3	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Yepremian	0	41/44	19/23	98
Moore	10	0/0	0/0	60

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	DOLPHINS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	270	298
NET RUSH	2366	2261
Avg Per Game	147.9	141.3
NET PASS	2469	2908
Att/Comp	379/226	437/256
Had Int	18	32
Avg Per Game	154.3	181.8
PUNTS/AVG	81/40.3	74/37.0
Punts Return/Yds	41/341	42/303
Avg Per Return	8.3	7.2
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	53/1132	70/1459
Avg Per Return	21.4	20.8
FUMBLES/LOST	24/12	37/21
FIELD GOALS	19/23	14/21
PATS	41/45	28/30
TOTAL POINTS	372	254

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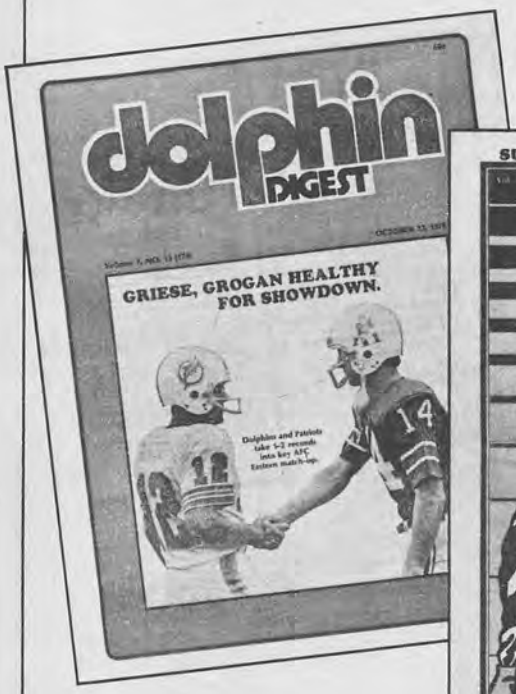

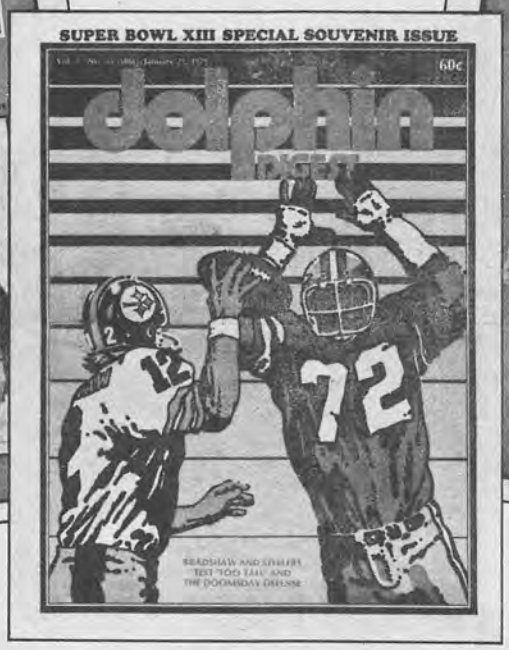

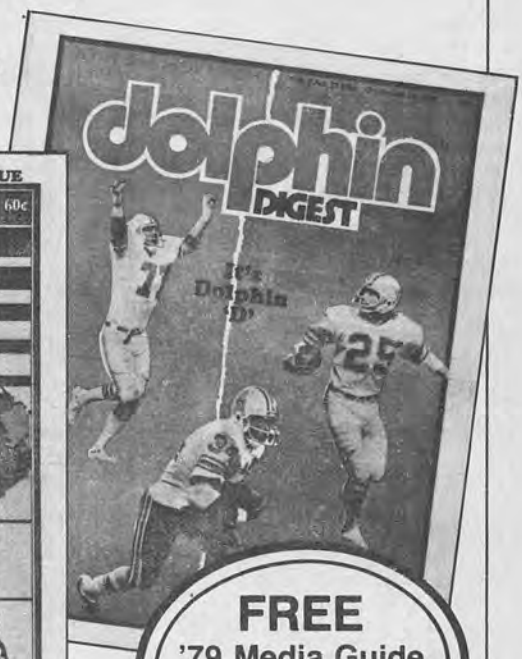

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performance last year when he drilled 41 of 44 PATs and 19 of 23 field goals. Handling the punting chores will be George Roberts, who averaged 40.3 yards a boot in '78.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The Dolphins made the NFL playoffs again last year as a wild card, but suffered a first round loss to the Houston Oilers. This time around, Coach Shula's gridders have the potential to get into postseason action once more, either by the same wild card route or as AFC East Champions. Carrying off the latter honor is a very real possibility, despite stiff competition from the defending AFC East champion New England Patriots. On offense, Griese, Williams, Moore, Kuchenberg, Langer, Little and their buddies spell trouble with a capital "T" for enemy defenses because the Dolphins can keep the scorekeeper busy either by land or air. The defensive unit has undergone some pretty extensive changes since the club's Super Bowl days, but this gang seldom gets burned when all the regulars are in top physical condition. There may not be another team in pro football with a better group of young defensive stalwarts than Duhe, Baumhower, Gordon, Bokamper, Small and Thomas. And providing them with the steadying influence only experience can teach are "grey-beards" like Den Herder, Matheson, Foley and Babb -- all throwbacks to Miami's NFL championship days. Can the Dolphins recapture that title-winning touch in '79? Well, put it this way: with the venerable Don Shula at the helm, good overall strength on offense and defense, plus the usual group of blue-chip rookie draftees on hand, the Dolphins could conceivably take it to the limit this season. A first place finish in their own division is certainly a possibility, and we'd be surprised if Miami didn't win as many games as they did last year.

You Missed The Best
See Page 5

New York Jets

(8-8-0)

It was nothing short of miraculous, the way last year's Jets forged out an 8-8 record against what was the toughest schedule in all of pro football. And when you consider the youthful make-up of Coach Walt Michaels' team, average age 24 and average NFL experience 1.6 years, their performance has to go down in the Captain Kangaroo Hall-of-Fame.

All kidding aside, our hats are off to Coach Michaels, his staff and the Jet players. After three consecutive years of 3-11 records, the '78 season witnessed a "rags-to-riches" turnaround by the Shea Stadium residents.

"We had a roller coaster type of year," reflects Michaels, "a lot of highs and lows. But one thing - these kids never quit."

That never-say-die spirit will have to carry over into the coming NFL campaign if the Jets are to continue their winning ways. Because in all candor, while the days of mediocrity seem to be over for the New Yorkers, the club still doesn't appear to have all the necessary tools to challenge for the title in the rugged AFC East.

OFFENSE: It's a toss-up whether Richard Todd or Matt Robinson will emerge as the team's starting quarterback. Todd, a No. 1 draftee in 1976, was once thought to be the fair-haired-boy, but recurrent injuries have tarnished that image. Last season, for instance, Todd played in just five games before a broken collarbone sidelined him for the remainder of the campaign. Before going down, Todd completed 60 of 107 aerials, six going for TDs, but he also surrendered 10 interceptions and was sacked 15 times.

Robinson came on to drill 124 of 266 completions in '78, including 13 scoring aerials, yet he too was intercepted 16 times and sacked 28. Robinson is definitely the better scrambler of the two QB aspirants, and with added experience, this lowly ninth round draft pick (in '76, same year Todd was No. 1 selection) could establish himself as the top signal caller for the Jets. A long-shot in the QB derby is second-year pro Pat Ryan, 9 of 14 via the air lanes last season.

When you talk about the Jets' pass catching corps, the undisputed leader of this gang is swift All-Pro wide receiver Wesley Walker, perhaps the premier deep threat in Pro Football today. A year ago, the fuel-injected Walker zoomed for an NFL-high 24.4 yards per catch on 48 receptions (1,169 yards), including touchdown grabs that covered distances of 77, 75, 56, 48, 47, 43, 38 and 33 yards. That was the second consecutive year he led pro football in per-catch average, and his combination of blazing 4.4 speed and open-field running ability makes Walker virtually impossible to stop even with double coverage.

The other starting wide receiver, Derrick Gaffney, made a spectacular debut as a rookie in '78 -- 38 catches, 18.2 yard average, three touchdowns. Gaffney attended college at Florida, where he played in the shadow of Wes Chandler (now with New Orleans), but he paid handsome dividends for the Jets, who selected him in round eight of last year's rookie draft.

Rangy speedster Jerome Barkum, who reeled in 28 aerials for 391 yards and three scores last season, mans the tight end spot. With Walker, Gaffney and Barkum as starters, the Jets have a trio of standouts starting at the receiving positions. However, reserve strength is only average, with those listed including wideouts Bobby Jones, Kevin Bell and Bruce Stephens, along with tight ends Mickey Shuler, Mark Iwanoskwi and Bob Raba. Shuler is a promising player, but the status of Stephens and Raba is questionable since both sat out the '78 campaign with injuries.

Spearheading a good rushing attack is Kevin Long, a slashing runner who chalked up 954 yards and scored 10 TDs on 214 carries in '78. Long's rushing total last year was the second highest one-season figure in team history. Chunky blaster Scott Dierking (5-10, 215) is set at the other running back, having powered his way for 681 yards on 170 attempts a year ago.

Long and Dierking are both bruising-type runners, but when the Jets want some scatback speed, they look to dimunitive Bruce Harper, who averaged 5.2 yards a pop rushing last season. Harper is also an explosive kick returner who averaged 23.3 yards on kickoff returns and 12.6 yards running back punts in '78, including an 82-yard TD run with one punt. Harper led the NFL last year in all-purpose yardage, beating out Chicago's Walter Payton and Baltimore's Joe Washington. Rounding

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	CLEVELAND
Sep	9	New England
Sep	16	DETROIT
Sep	23	Buffalo
Sep	30	MIAMI
Oct	7	Baltimore
Oct	15	MINNESOTA
Oct	21	OAKLAND
Oct	28	Houston
Nov	4	Green Bay
Nov	11	BUFFALO
Nov	18	Chicago
Nov	26	Seattle
Dec	2	BALTIMORE
Dec	9	NEW ENGLAND
Dec	15	Miami

N.Y. Jets	1978 Results	Opp
33	Miami	20
21	at Buffalo	20
17	Seattle	24
3	at Washington	23
17	Pittsburgh	28
45	Buffalo	14
33	at Baltimore	10
23	St. Louis	10
21	at New England	55
31	at Denver	28
9	at Philadelphia	17
17	New England	19
24	at Miami	13
24	Baltimore	16
34	at Cleveland	37
7	Dallas	30

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GAMES PLAYED WEEK	GAMES WON-LOST	GAMES PLAYED WEEK	GAMES WON-LOST
NO. 1	4-1	NO. 11	5-1
NO. 2	4-2	NO. 12	4-1
NO. 3	3-4	NO. 13	4-2
NO. 4	6-1	NO. 14	3-4
NO. 5	5-2	NO. 15	3-1
NO. 6	4-2	NO. 16	2-0
NO. 7	4-5	PRO-PLAYOFFS	6-2
NO. 8	6-1	BOWL GAMES	7-3
NO. 9	4-2	SUPERBOWL	WINNER
NO. 10	4-2		

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out the corps of ball carriers are former starter Clark Gaines, Tom Newton, Darnell Powell and Jim Earley.

The Jets have used their No. 1 picks in the last two college drafts to select offensive linemen, coming up with a pair of real plums in tackles Marvin Powell and Chris Ward. Powell and Ward both tip the beams at around 270-pounds, and there isn't a quarterback worth his play book who wouldn't love to have those young behemoths pass blocking in front of him. They anchor a very good offensive line. Long-time stalwart Randy Rasmussen, 13 years a Jet, and Dan Alexander occupy the guard holes, while sandwiched between them is center Joe Fields. John Roman, Darrell Austin and Stan Waldemore are the leading reserves up front, a good but not outstanding trio.

DEFENSE: Last year, the Jets joined a growing number of NFL teams by converting to a 3-4 defensive set-up, which resulted in general improvement by this unit. However, there's still a long way to go before the stop troops can be considered strong enough to be truly first-rate, and no matter how you cut it, genuine success in pro football seldom comes until a team assembles a stout-hearted defense.

Anchoring the three-man front wall is nose tackle Abdul Salaam, an improving four-year pro who shuts off the middle pretty well against the run, but is only average as a pass rusher. Backstopping him is 270-pounder Joe Pellegrini. Blasting in from the line flanks are Joe Klecko and Lawrence Pillers, with support from second-year pro Gregg Robinson. Klecko received some All-AFC recognition last year when he led the Jets with eight QB sacks, recorded 139 total tackles and blocked one enemy field goal attempt and two PAT tries. As far as starters are concerned, the front wall appears fairly stable, but woe be it unto the Jets and their defense should too many injuries occur in this area.

The heart of any 3-4 defense is the linebacking corps, and the Jets can only improve in this respect with the return of standout outside backer Greg Buttle, returning to action after missing 11 games last season because of an injury. Battling for the other outside spot are Bob Martin and Larry Keller. Martin is a savage hitter who led the linebackers in '78 with 129 total tackles.

Handling the two inside 'backer posts are Mike Hennigan and John Hennessy, although pressing for a regular assignment will be promising second-year pro Mark Merrill, the Jets' No. 2 pick in last year's rookie draft. Another second-year man, Mike Mock, lends additional support.

The secondary, which needs to show considerable improvement on its '78 performance, is headlined by one of the better safety duos in the AFC -- Burgess Owens (free) and Shafer Suggs (strong). Ownes, a battle-tested veteran of seven pro campaigns, led the team with five interceptions last fall, one of which he ran back for a touchdown, while Suggs was the No. 1 tackler on the Jets a year ago with 161 total stops. Ken Schroy and Tim Moresco provide depth at the safeties.

Patrolling the corners are Ed Taylor and Bobby Jackson, the latter selected to the NFL's all-rookie team last year. However, Taylor and Jackson were the weakest links in the deep zones in '78, when enemy passers unloaded for 176.4 aerial yards-per-game and 21 scoring tosses against the Jets. Lending support at cornerback are Reggie Grant and Larry Riley, the latter returning from the injured list.

It's a comfort to Coach Michaels to have a placekicker like Pat Leahy, who finished No. 1 on the AFC scoring charts last year with 107 points -- 41 of 42 PATs and 22 of 30 field goals. Chuck Ramsey, who averaged 40.1 yards-per-boot, is also a dependable punter.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Like we said earlier, we congratulate the entire Jets' organization for their sterling performance last season. And we couldn't have agreed more when the mastermind of that success story, Walt

New York Jets 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	251	24	3	Louisiana St.	16
67	Austin, Darrell	G/C	6-4	252	28	5	South Carolina	13
83	Barkum, Jerome	TE	6-4	217	29	8	Jackson St	16
80	Bell, Kevin	WR	5-10	180	24	2	Lamar	9
51	Buttle, Greg	LB	6-3	229	25	4	Penn St	8
25	Dierking, Scott	RB	5-10	215	24	3	Purdue	15
47	Earley, Jim	FB	6-1	230	23	2	Michigan St	2
91	Evans, Gary	G	6-2	255	23	1	Grand Valley St	0
65	Fields, Joe	C/G	6-2	245	26	5	Widener	16
81	Gaffney, Derrick	WR	6-1	175	24	2	Florida	16
21	Gaines, Clark	RB	6-1	194	25	4	Wake Forest	16
53	Gibney, John	C	6-5	262	23	1	Colgate	0
49	Grant, Reggie	CB	5-9	185	24	2	Oregon	14
42	Harper, Bruce	RB/KR	5-8	182	24	3	Kutztown St	16
63	Hennessy, John	LB/DE	6-3	236	24	3	Michigan	16
52	Hennigan, Mike	LB	6-2	215	28	7	Tennessee Tech	12
84	Iwanowski, Mark	TE	6-4	230	24	2	Pennsylvania	5
40	Jackson, Bobby	CB	5-9	175	23	2	Florida St	16
89	Jones, Bobby	WR	5-11	180	24	2	None	16
56	Keller, Larry	LB	6-2	225	26	4	Houston	16
73	Klecko, Joe	DE	6-3	256	26	3	Temple	16
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	190	28	6	St. Louis	16
33	Long, Kevin	FB	6-1	205	24	3	South Carolina	16
59	Martin, Bob	LB	6-1	214	26	4	Nebraska	16
58	Merrill, Mark	LB	6-4	237	24	2	Minnesota	16
50	Mock, Mike	LB/P	6-1	225	24	2	Texas Tech	15
71	Moreino, Joe	DE/D	6-6	246	24	2	Idaho St	1
37	Moresco, Tim	S	5-11	176	25	3	Syracuse	11
44	Newton, Tom	FB	6-0	205	25	3	California	16
22	Owens, Burgess	FS	6-2	195	28	7	Miami (Fla.)	14
77	Pellegrini, Joe	DT	6-2	270	23	2	Idaho	9
76	Pillers, Lawrence	DE	6-3	247	27	4	Alcorn St	16
20	Powell, Darnell	RB	6-0	184	25	3	Tenn-Chatt.	14
79	Powell, Marvin	T	6-5	271	24	3	So. California	14
86	Raba, Bob	TE/LB	6-1	222	24	3	Maryland	4
15	Ramsey, Chuck	P	6-2	183	27	3	Wake Forest	16
66	Rasmussen, Randy	G	6-2	255	34	13	Kearney St	16
34	Riley, Larry	CB	5-10	190	25	3	Salem	4
64	Robinson, Gregg	DE/DT	6-6	255	23	2	Dartmouth	16
17	Robinson, Matt	QB	6-2	196	24	3	Georgia	16
61	Roman, John	T	6-4	251	27	4	Idaho St	16
4	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	205	24	2	Tennessee	2
74	Salaam, Abdul	DT	6-3	260	26	4	Kent St	15
48	Schroy, Ken	S	6-2	191	27	3	Maryland	16
82	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	229	23	2	Penn St	16
87	Stephens, Bruce	WR/KR	5-9	170	23	2	Columbia	6
23	Suggs, Shafer	SS	6-1	200	26	4	Ball St	16
38	Taylor, Ed	CB	6-0	175	26	5	Memphis St	16
14	Todd, Richard	QB	6-2	200	26	4	Alabama	5
70	Waldemore, Stan	T/G	6-4	257	24	2	Nebraska	4
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	179	24	3	California	16
72	Ward, Chris	T	6-3	269	24	2	Ohio St	16

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Robinson	266/124	16	2002	13
Todd	107/60	10	849	6
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Walker	48	1169	24.4	8
Gaffney	38	691	18.2	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Owens	5	156	31.2	1
Jackson	5	26	5.2	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Long	214	954	4.5	10
Dierking	170	681	4.0	4
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Ramsey	74	2964	40.1	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Leahy	0	41/42	22/30	107
Long	10	0/0	0/0	60

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	JETS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	277	324
NET RUSH	2250	2701
Avg Per Game	303.6	345.3
NET PASS	2607	2823
Att/Comp	388/193	447/260
Had Int	28	23
Avg Per Game	162.9	176.4
PUNTS/AVG	74/40.1	70/37.4
Punts Return/Yds	33/413	52/609
Avg Per Return	12.5	11.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	67/1509	64/1417
Avg Per Return	22.5	22.1
FUMBLES/LOST	22/9	34/17
FIELD GOALS	22/30	18/24
PATS	41/42	40/45
TOTAL POINTS	359	364

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Michaels, was voted coach-of-the-year in '78. Embarking on their third go-around under Coach Michaels, the Jets are a youthful club with the potential to continue their winning ways, no easy task when you consider they must play in the always-tough AFC East. Whether it's Robinson or Todd at quarterback, the Jets will field an explosive and balanced attack, with phenom Wesley Walker heading up the pass receiving corps and the rushing attack geared around the 1-2 punch of Long and Dierking. The offensive line -- slowly rebuilt through the rookie draft -- shapes up very well, although it's obvious a major outbreak of injuries in this area could prove disastrous because back-up strength is only average. About the same thing can be said for the entire defensive unit, especially at the linebacking positions. The defensive line is young and improving, although the pit crew must beef up their pass rush (only 22 sacks in '78) to relieve the pressure on the gang in the secondary. Speaking of the crew in the deep zones, the Jets have to be satisfied with the play of SS Suggs and FS Owens, but the cornerbacks will have to improve in their defense against both the pass and the run. Last year, the Jets took some opponents by surprise when they forged out their .500 mark, and a repeat this season is well within the realm of possibility. But the bottom line is that, while the New Yorkers have the potential for another winning campaign, climbing any higher than third in the AFC East looms as a mission impossible unless the defense registers marked improvement.

New York Jets Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Lyons, Marty	DE	6-5	260	Alabama
Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-4	245	E Cent Oklahoma
Dykes, Donald	DB	6-2	190	SE Louisiana
Cunningham, Eric	OG	6-3	245	Penn State
Lynn, Johnny	DB	6-0	186	UCLA
Kirchbaum, Kelly	LB	6-3	236	Kentucky
Blinka, Stan	LB	6-2	230	Sam Houston St
Dufek, Bill	OG	6-4	255	Michigan
King, Emmitt	RB	5-10	194	Houston
Brown, Keith	DB	5-11	191	Minnesota
Harris, Marshall	DT	6-6	265	Texas Christian
Beamon, Willie	LB	6-3	235	Boise State
Sprattler, Gordy	RB	6-1	210	N Dakota St
Sydelbon, Steve	OT	6-5	240	North Dakota
McGlasson, Ed	C	6-4	235	Youngstown St
Sanders, Dan	QB	6-3	185	Garson-Newman
Darby, Paul	WR	6-1	175	SW Texas St

Buffalo Bills

(5-11-0)

The city of Buffalo lost its title as "America's Snow Capital" last winter. That dubious honor went instead to Chicago, which led the nation in categories such as injuries sustained pushing cars out of snow drifts, cases of frostbite reported and the number of mornings residents woke to find city plows had dumped a foot of frozen snow in their driveways.

However, you aren't likely to find many Buffalo-ites grieving over the loss of their "Snow Capital" title. At least not while the city's major pro sports' teams (the hockey Sabres and football Bills) continue their upswing. This is especially true of the Bills, entering their second year under Coach Chuck Knox with the potential to make things hot for the other clubs in the AFC East. But only if the team's cheese-cloth defense starts shutting down opponents with greater consistency.

The Bills' offensive unit, long the club's strength, continues to be exactly that despite the trade of O.J. Simpson. Dire predictions were made when the "Juice" was shipped west to San Francisco, and during the early stages of last season, the club's rushing attack did lack its former wallop. But once the Bills' top '78 draft pick, whirlwind Terry Miller, got untracked and the offensive line adjusted to some personnel changes, the ground game became a dangerous weapon once again.

OFFENSE: The increased productivity in the running game also benefitted the aerial attack, which up until that point had been under heavy pressure because it was the Bills' only real offensive threat. Quarterback Joe

1979 Schedule

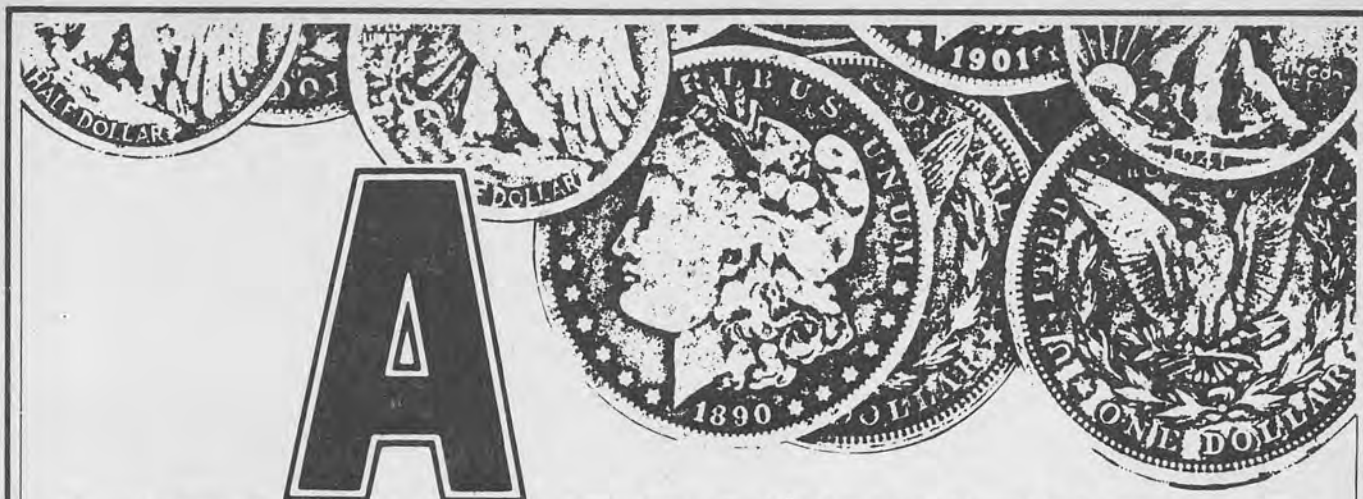
Sep	2	MIAMI
Sep	9	CINCINNATI
Sep	16	San Diego
Sep	23	NY JETS
Sep	30	Baltimore
Oct	7	CHICAGO
Oct	14	Miami
Oct	21	BALTIMORE
Oct	28	Detroit
Nov	4	NEW ENGLAND
Nov	11	NY Jets
Nov	18	GREEN BAY
Nov	25	New England
Dec	2	DENVER
Dec	9	Minnesota
Dec	16	Pittsburgh

Bills	1978 Results	Opp
17	Pittsburgh	28
20	N.Y. Jets	21
24	at Miami	31
24	Baltimore	17
28	Kansas City	13
14	at N.Y. Jets	45
10	at Houston	17
5	Cincinnati	0
20	at Cleveland	41
10	at New England	14
24	Miami	25
10	at Tampa Bay	31
41	N.Y. Giants	17
10	at Kansas City	14
24	at New England	26
21	at Baltimore	14

Buffalo Bills Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Cousineau, Tom	LB	6-4	235	Ohio State
Butler, Jerry	WR	6-1	190	Clemson
Smerlas, Fred	DT	6-4	275	Boston Col
Haslett, Jim	LB	6-3	230	Indiana, Pa.
Borchardt, Jon	OT	6-5	260	Montana St.
Johnson, Ken	DE	6-4	240	Knoxville
Nixon, Jeff	DB	6-4	190	Richmond
Kush, Rod	DB	6-0	185	Nebraska-Omaha
Manucci, Dan	QB	6-2	190	Kansas State
Burrow, Mike	OG	6-5	250	Auburn
Mullady, Tom	LB	6-3	220	SW-tern Tenn.
Baker, Kevin	DE	6-4	240	William Penn
Marler, Dave	QB	6-1	195	Mississippi St
Lawler, Paul	DB	6-1	195	Colgate
Harris, Mike	RB	6-1	197	Arizona St



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Ferguson, an underrated seven-year veteran, cut his interception figure way down during the second half of the '78 campaign, and his throwing will continue to give the offense a balanced look now that the rushing attack is potent.

For the entire '78 season, Ferguson hit the mark on 175 of 330 tosses altogether, with 16 of those aerials going for touchdowns. That raised his career total of scoring passes to 78, allowing him to surpass Congressman Jack Kemp as the team's all-time leader in that department. Ferguson has seldom gotten the recognition due him in his years with the Bills, but he's the kind of steady, battle-tested signal caller so vital to winning in the NFL.

That's the good news at the QB spot. The bad news is that, after Ferguson, about all the Bills have is a hope and a prayer in the way of back-up strength. Listed are erstwhile veteran Bill Munson, 15 years a pro, and David Mays, who teamed with Munson for 28 completions on 58 passing attempts a year ago. It seems unlikely that either could hack it over the long haul, and you can bet that the Bills will be scouting the woods in search of other quarterbacking prospects.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Ferguson	330/175	15	2136	16
Munson	43/24	2	328	4
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Chandler	44	581	13.2	5
Lewis	41	735	17.9	7
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Clark	5	29	5.8	0
Nelson	3	69	23.0	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Miller	238	1060	4.5	7
Brown	128	591	4.6	4
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Jackson	87	3373	38.8	2
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Dempsey	0	10/13	36/39	66
Lewis	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	BILLS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	274	305
NET RUSH	2381	3228
Avg Per Game	148.8	201.8
NET PASS	2249	1960
Att/Comp	388/203	317/167
Had Int	17	14
Avg Per Game	140.6	122.5
PUNTS/AVG	89/37.9	71/36.5
Punts Return/Yds	40/375	48/442
Avg Per Return	9.4	9.2
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	66/1316	58/1182
Avg Per Return	19.9	20.4
FUMBLES/LOST	34/17	27/16
FIELD GOALS	10/13	11/21
PATS	36/39	43/46
TOTAL POINTS	302	354

Without question, the paceseter when it comes to hauling in passes is wide receiver Bob Chandler, team leader again last season when he caught 44 aerials for 581 yards and 5 TDs. Over the past four years, the always-reliable Chandler has snagged 220 passes, more than any other NFL receiver during that period.

Complementing him at the other wide receiver spot is ex-Pittsburgh Steeler Frank Lewis, who established several personal records last year in his first campaign with the Bills. Overall in '78, Lewis reeled in 41 aerials (the best one-season total in his career) which he carted for 735 yards and seven scores. Included among his TD catches last season was a 92-yarder (against Miami) that was the longest in the NFL.

Rounding out what is a solid trio of starting receivers is tight end Reuben Gant, a rugged blocker who added 34 catches a year ago. Unfortunately, the Bills are not as well-set when it comes to reserve strength at the receiver spots, what with the likes of WRs Lou Piccone and Larry Walton and tight end Mike Franckowiak. Help may be forthcoming from a quartet of players who finished last year on the injured reserve list -- John Holland, Len Willis, Joe Shipp and Danny Fulton. But outside of Holland, a former regular with the Bills, backup prospects don't look that great.

The rushing attack, which really picked up steam at the end of the '78 campaign, is bulwarked by the aforementioned Terry Miller. A year ago, as a rookie, Miller was just short of sensational once he got his bearings, detonating for a total of 1,060 yards on 238 carries. The elusive speedster from Oklahoma State highlighted his banner rookie year with a 208-yard rushing onslaught against the New York Giants that was the highest one-game total in the NFL.

Balancing out the ground attack are a trio of capable ball toters who notched an aggregate 1,171 yards on the ground a year ago -- Curtis Brown, Roland Hooks and Dennis Johnson. Brown is the most noteworthy of that group, having rambled for 591 yards last season despite not being used as a running back until the fifth game of the campaign. In addition to his contribution as a ball carrier in '78, Brown also paced the Bills in kickoff returns with a 25.2 yard average (including a 102-yard TD jaunt) on 17 runbacks.

The offensive line, known as the

Buffalo Bills 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
60	Adams, Bill	G	6-2	246	29	7	Holy Cross	6
52	Becker, Doug	LB	6-0	220	23	2	Notre Dame	8
47	Brown, Curtis	FB	5-10	203	25	3	Missouri	15
58	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	234	23	2	USC	4
81	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	30	9	USC	16
29	Clark, Mario	CB	6-2	195	27	4	Oregon	16
35	Collier, Mike	RB	5-11	200	26	3	Morgan State	0
68	DeLamielleure, Joe	G	6-3	245	28	7	Michigan State	16
6	Dempsey, Tom	K	6-1	260	32	11	Palomar Junior	16
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	250	25	4	Iowa	14
85	Dokes, Phil	DE	6-5	255	24	3	Oklahoma State	10
79	Drungo, Elbert	T	6-5	265	36	11	Tennessee State	13
56	Ehlers, Tom	LB	6-2	218	27	5	Kentucky	8
12	Ferguson, Joe	QB	6-1	195	29	7	Arkansas	16
84	Franckowiak, Mike	TE	6-3	225	26	5	Central Michigan	16
22	Freeman, Steve	SS	5-11	185	26	5	Mississippi State	16
42	Fulton, Dan	WR	6-2	180	23	1	Nebraska-Omaha	0
88	Gant, Reuben	TE	6-4	225	27	6	Oklahoma State	16
55	Graham, Tom	LB	6-2	235	29	8	Oregon	11
53	Grant, Will	C	6-3	248	25	2	Kentucky	16
43	Greene, Tony	FS	5-10	175	30	9	Maryland	16
74	Hardison, Dee	DT	6-4	269	23	1	North Carolina	16
76	Hertwig, Craig	T	6-8	270	27	4	Georgia	0
80	Holland, John	WR	6-1	190	27	5	Tennessee State	0
25	Hooks, Roland	RB	6-0	195	26	4	North Carolina St.	16
78	Hutchinson, Scott	DE	6-4	243	23	2	Florida	16
73	Ieremia, Mekeli	DE	6-2	244	25	1	Brigham Young	2
4	Jackson, Rusty	P	6-2	195	29	3	LSU	16
51	Jilek, Dan	LB	6-2	225	26	4	Michigan	15
75	Johnson, Dennis	DT	6-4	265	28	6	Delaware	14
39	Johnson, Dennis	FB	6-3	220	23	2	Mississippi State	16
24	Jones, Doug	SS	6-2	205	28	6	Cal State	12
72	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	250	27	4	Arkansas State	16
71	Kadish, Mike	DT	6-5	270	30	7	Notre Dame	11
82	Lewis, Frank	WR	6-1	196	32	9	Grambling	15
10	Mays, David	QB	6-1	204	30	4	Texas Southern	1
54	McClanahan, Randy	LB	6-5	225	23	3	S.W. Louisiana	16
67	McKenzie, Reggie	G	6-5	242	29	8	Michigan	16
41	McMillan, Eddie	CB	6-0	190	28	7	Florida State	14
40	Miller, Terry	RB	5-10	196	23	2	Oklahoma State	16
46	Moody, Keith	CB	5-10	170	26	4	Syracuse	14
9	Munson, Bill	QB	6-2	205	38	16	Utah State	4
59	Nelson, Shane	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Baylor	16
	Olsen, Phil	C	6-4	260	31	7	Utah State	0
61	Parker, Willie	C	6-3	245	31	8	N. Texas State	16
89	Piccone, Lou	WR	5-9	175	30	6	W. Liberty State	16
23	Powell, Steve	RB	5-11	186	23	2	N.E. Missouri St.	10
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	25	3	North Carolina St.	16
57	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	216	23	2	Georgia Tech	16
	Shipp, Joe	TE	6-4	225	24	1	USC	0
	Smith, Eric	T	6-4	263	23	1	So. Mississippi	0
21	Switzer, Marvin	FS	6-0	192	25	1	Kansas State	10
49	Walton, Larry	WR	6-0	180	32	11	Arizona State	12
83	White, Sherman	DE	6-5	250	31	8	California	16
77	Williams, Ben	DE	6-3	245	25	4	Mississippi	16
86	Willis, Len	WR	5-11	185	26	4	Ohio State	4
	Zachery, Willie	WR	6-1	185	23	1	Central State (OH)	0
53	Zelencik, Connie	C	6-4	245	24	2	Purdue	0

1975
OUR GAME BY GAME RECORD

WEEK 1		
Texas Tech	-12	L
Maryland	+4	L
Kentucky	-12	W
Tulane	+9½	W
WEEK 2		
W. Virginia	+6	W
Rice	+0	W
Georgia	+0	W
Nebraska	-20½	W
Kansas	+11	W
Oregon	+25	W
Texas	-17	L
Missouri	-6	W
Oklahoma	-27½	L
Florida	-6½	L
*Detroit	+5	W
*N. Orleans	+14	L
*Philadelphia	-2½	L
WEEK 3		
Georgia	+2	W
Arkansas	-14	W
Washington	+3	L
Utah	+14	W
W. Forest	+14	W
*Detroit	+1	W
*Kansas City	+1	L
WEEK 4		
Air Force	+9	L
Tex A&M	-18	L
Penn.	+8	L
Colorado	+28	W
Wash. St.	+6½	W
Stanford	-18	W
Baylor	-2½	L
*New England	+7½	L
*Minnesota	-13	W
WEEK 5		
Texas	+9	W
Harvard	-18	L
Iowa St.	+0	W
*Detroit	-8½	W
*Green Bay	+5	W
*Minnesota	-7	W
WEEK 6		
Flordia	-24	W
Iowa	+3	W
Kansas	+1	W
Oregon	+16½	L
Stanford	-6	L
Texas Tech	+11	W
*Pittsburgh	-15½	W
*Philadelphia	+7½	L
*Denver	-11	L
WEEK 7		
Notre Dame	+7½	W
Alabama	-30	W
Wisconsin	-6	L
Penn. St.	-33	L
Michigan	-38	W
Navy	+14	W
Virginia T.	+8	W
Kansas	+0	L
Utah	+17	W
Oregon St.	+14	L
*Washington	-8	W
*Baltimore	+7	W
*Philadelphia	+7	W
WEEK 8		
Florida St.	+3	W
Navy	+13½	L
Syracuse	+7½	L
Calif.	+8½	W
Ohio St.	-44	L
Kansas	-11	W
Okla. St.	+19	L
Air Force	-7	W
Arizona St.	-20	W
*Buffalo	-7½	L
*Miami	-14	W
*Detroit	+3	W
WEEK 9		
Boston Col.	-18	W
Minnesota	-6	W
Stanford	+12	W
N. Car.	-7½	L
Miss. St.	+6½	W
Nebraska	-23½	L
Kansas	+25½	W
*Miami	-11½	W
*Detroit	-9	W
WEEK 10		
Maryland	-12	L
Harvard	+11	W
Georgia	-5	W
Kansas	+5	W
Princeton	+7	L
So. Car.	-5½	W
Arkansas	-7	W
Missouri	+15	W
Wash.	+13	W
*Philadelphia	+4½	W
*Minnesota	-16½	L
WEEK 11		
Nebraska	+5	L
Illinois	-7½	W
Oklahoma St.	-9	L
Utah	+30	W
*Phila.	+11	W
WEEK 12		
Ariz. St.	-5	L
Houston	+4	W
*Detroit	+9½	L
*Houston	+4	P
*Pittsburgh	-13½	L
*Baltimore	-6	W
WEEK 13		
*Baltimore	-7	W
WEEK 14	NONE	

1976
OUR GAME BY GAME RECORD

WEEK 1		
Oklahoma	-20½	W
Michigan	-27	L
Alabama	-13	L
Texas A&M	-9	W
Auburn	+7	L
SMU	-5	W
*Baltimore	-5	W
*Detroit	-1	L
*Minnesota	-7½	W
*Wash.	-5	L
*Houston	-14	W
WEEK 2		
Georgia	-15	W
Nebraska	-21	W
Wash. St.	+13½	L
*Phila.	+6½	W
*Baltimore	+1	W
*Minnesota	-7	P
WEEK 3		
UCLA	-17	W
Oklahoma	-27	L
Maryland	-12	W
Georgia T.	-7	L
Army	+22	W
Michigan	-26	W
USC	-9½	W
Miami Fla	+12	L
Alabama	-23	W
Boston Col.	-10	W
*Buffalo	-8	L
*Miami	-16	P
*Houston	+6	W
*L.A.	-8	W
WEEK 4		
Oregon	+6	L
Kansas	-14	L
Miami Fla.	+23	W
*Baltimore	-18½	W
*Houston	-7	L
WEEK 5		
Indiana	-6	W
Calif.	-24	L
Rice	-3	P
Princeton	+1	W
Illinois	+4	L
Georgia	-6½	L
Boston Col.	-12	L
Michigan	-24	W
*Buffalo	-10	L
WEEK 6		
Miss. St.	-3	W
Pittsburgh	-12½	W
Notre Dame	-26	W
Nebraska	-26½	W
Michigan	-32	L
Wash.	+7	W
*Detroit	+6	L
*Denver	+2½	L
*N. Orleans	+7½	L
WEEK 7		
Miss.	-9	W
Nebraska	-10½	L
Wash.	-13	L
Texas	-24	L
Texas T.	-11	W
*Baltimore	-13	W
WEEK 8		
Michigan	-25	W
Pittsburgh	-22	L
Alabama	-8½	W
Oregon St.	+20	L
Tulane	+8	W
*Denver	+8	L
WEEK 9		
Michigan	-26	L
USC	-12½	W
Georgia	-1½	W
UCLA	-30	W
Mich. St.	-10½	W
Navy	+10½	W
Penn. St.	-10	W
Texas T.	-26	L
Tenn.	-2	W
Oregon St.	+11	W
Wyoming	+7	W
Ohio St.	-18	W
Kentucky	-12	W
WEEK 10		
Alabama	+3½	W
Mich. St.	-11½	L
Georgia	-8	W
Texas A&M	+3½	W
USC	-20	L
Colgate	+13	L
Boston Col.	-7½	W
Penn.	+1	L
Tenn.	-1	W
Okla. St.	-17½	W
LSU	+1½	L
Colo. St.	+10	L
*Pittsburgh	-10	W
WEEK 11		
Miss. St.	-3	W
Texas A&M	-33	W
Houston	+7	W
Miami Fla.	+13½	W
Colorado	-20½	L
*Cleveland	-13½	W
Ariz St. **WEEK 12**	+7	W
Georgia	-20	L
USC	-8½	L
Texas A&M	-6½	W
*Oakland	-22	W
*Pittsburgh	-2½	W
*L.A. **WEEK 13**	-14	W
*Pittsburgh	-27	W
*L.A. **WEEK 14**	-6½	W
*Green Bay	+4½	L
*N. England	-16½	W

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1977
OUR GAME BY GAME RECORD

WEEK 1		
Nebraska	+6	W
Oklahoma St.	+1	L
Iowa St.	-3	L
Tulane	+10	W
Georgia	-9	L
Texas Tech	-7	W
*Houston	-7	W
*Green Bay	+7	W
WEEK 2		
Duke	-12	W
Alabama	-13	L
Kansas	-1	L
Boston Col.	-13	W
Illinois	+9	L
N. Carolina	-3	W
Georgia	+1	W
Oregon State	+14	W
*Miami	-3	W
WEEK 3		
UCLA	-12	W
Colorado	-19	W
N. Carolina St.	+4	W
Oklahoma St.	-13½	L
Stanford	-13	L
Tulane	+3	W
Missouri	+3½	W
WEEK 4		
Clemson	-22	W
Harvard	+2	W
Ohio State	-17	W
LSU	-7	W
Indiana	-8	W
Minnesota	+0	L
Tulane	+4	W
Kansas	+6	L
*Green Bay	+9	L
*Miami	+6½	L
WEEK 5		
Boston Col.	+8	W
Michigan	-18	W
Georgia	-6	W
Ohio State	-17	W
Texas	-1	W
WEEK 6		
Kentucky	+2	W
Michigan	+4	W
Arkansas	-8	W
Virginia	+10½	W
Pittsburgh	-18½	L
Michigan	-19	L
Ohio State	-34	L
Baylor	+12½	W
LSU	-21	W
*Atlanta	+7½	W
WEEK 7		
Florida	-5	L
TCU	+16	L
Texas	-7½	W
California	+6	W
Washington	+10	W
Kentucky	-21	W
Clemson	-15	W
Harvard	+11	W
Oregon State	+9	W
*Houston	+7½	W
*Denver	+1½	L
WEEK 8		
Pittsburgh	-14	W
Duke	-7	W
Kentucky	-15	W
Texas	-13	W
UCLA	-20	L
Ohio State	-21	W
*San Diego	-3	L
WEEK 9		*
Notre Dame	-10	L
Alabama	-24	W
Pittsburgh	-24	W
Kentucky	-6	W
Nebraska	-18	W
Arkansas	+1	W
Iowa	+3	W
*Houston	+14	W
*Miami	+2½	W
WEEK 10		
Minnesota	-8	L
Washington	-7	W
Missouri	-7	L
Colorado St.	+13	W
*Miami	+1	L
*Denver	-8	L
WEEK 11		
Pittsburgh	-4½	L
*Houston	-7	W
WEEK 12		
*Seattle	+21	W
*Miami	+2	W
WEEK 13		
*Miami	+4	W
*Seattle	+7	W
*Washington	+4½	W
WEEK 14		
*Tampa Bay	+10	W
*Houston	+2½	L
WEEK 16		
*Chicago	+5½	W
*Dallas	-4	W
*Buffalo	+3½	W

*PRO GAMES

1978
OUR GAME BY GAME RECORD

WEEK 1		
*Nebraska	+12	L
*Miami	-4	L
*Denver	+4	W
*Green B.	+9	W
WEEK 2		
Florida St.	-2	W
Tulane	+13	L
Missouri	+17	W
Illinois	-11	L
Okla	-13	L
Texas T.	+20	W
Colorado	-20	L
Iowa St.	-21	L
*Denver	+1½	L
WEEK 3		
Colorado	-10	P
USC	-20	W
Colgate	-12	L
Baylor	-1	L
Arkansas	-27	W
Texas	-27	W
BYU	+6	L
*Denver	-6	W
*Baltimore	+17	W
WEEK 4		
Texas A&M	-14½	W
Michigan	+2	W
Holy Cross	+14	W
Texas T.	+3	W
Army	-7	L
Dartmouth	+5	W
WEEK 5		
Michigan	-7	W
Colorado	-27	W
Penn. St.	-14	W
Colgate	-6	L
Florida St.	-6	L
*Phila.	+3	W
*Wash.	+4½	W
WEEK 6		
Pittsburgh	-16	W
Tulane	+1	W
Okla. St.	-4	L
Colorado	-17	L
Florida	+6½	L
Penn. St.	-7	W
Arkansas	-30	W
*Wash.	-7	L
*Denver	-3½	L
WEEK 7		
Kentucky	-0	W
Texas A&M	-7	L
Maryland	-10	W
Holy Cross	+6	W
Nebraska	-26	W
Pittsburgh	+5	L
Florida	+23	W
Colo. St.	-3½	W
Wash.	-0	W
BYU	-6	L
Texas T.	-2½	W
*N.Y. Jets	+6½	W
*Oakland	-14	W
WEEK 8		
Georgia	-20	W
Mich. St.	-10	W
Missouri	-14½	W
Penn. St.	-27	W
Florida	-15	W
Texas	+3	W
Texas T.	-15	L
Minn.	-13½	W
*Green Bay	+3½	L
WEEK 9		
Maryland	-13	W
Penn. St.	-22	W
Colgate	-12	L
Illinois	+8	L
Tulane	-1½	W
*N.Y. Jets	+10	L
WEEK 10		
Michigan	-23	W
Mich. St.	-17	W
Ohio St.	-18	W
Iowa St.	-12	W
Oregon St.	+8	W
*N. England	-10	L
WEEK 11		
Nebraska	+4	W
Mich. St.	-20	W
Florida	+4	W
Tenn.	+19	W
Colorado	-9	L
Texas T.	-13	L
Georgia T.	-17	W
Florida St.	-16	L
WEEK 12		
Michigan	-14	W
Mich. St.	-38	W
Texas	-24	W
N. Car. St.	-14	P
Air Force	+2	L
Colo. St.	-2	W
WEEK 13		
Texas	-13	L
Rutgers	-3	L
Indiana	+21	W
Minn.	-1	L
Wash.	-12	W
WEEK 14		
Tenn.	-16	W
LSU	-17	L
Houston	-24	W
*N.Y. Jets	-7	W
*Pittsburgh	+3	W
*Chicago	+5	L
WEEK 15		
*Pittsburgh	-11	W
*Seattle	+4	L
*Cinci.	+7	W

"Electric Company" a few years ago, has undergone a number of changes. But still plugged in at the guard holes are Joe DeLamielleure and Reggie McKenzie, perhaps the best tandem in pro football. Last year, for the third consecutive time, DeLamielleure was selected as a starter for the AFC in the Pro Bowl game. McKenzie wasn't picked for that all-star extravaganza, but many thought he deserved a spot on the roster.

Tucked in between them at center is Willie Parker, while the remainder of the starting front wall is comprised of tackles Ken Jones and Joe Devlin. Depth in the offensive line is only so-so, led by guard Bill Adams and tackle Elbert Drungo. After them, there's only a handful of as-yet untested prospects, so keeping the regulars up front healthy is vital to the team's offensive success. In fact, when you examine Buffalo's offensive unit overall, the lack of proven reserve strength (except possibly at running back) is the only flaw in what is an otherwise explosive attack force.

DEFENSE: "Youth will be served" should be the motto of Buffalo's defensive unit, rebuilding around a passle of young'uns who will be holy terrors once they've played together for awhile. However, if you want a look at the immediate potential of the Bill defenders, the forecast is that opponents will continue to find this unit vulnerable.

The Bills' single biggest defensive shortcoming is against the run, evidenced by their surrendering 201.8 yards-per-game on the ground last season. And, although good progress is expected of Buffalo's young defenders in the line and at linebacker, enemy ball carriers will make good headway again this season.

Two of those youthful standouts, end Ben Williams and tackle Dee Hardison, will be doing their best to prevent that from happening. Hardison is a mobile bruiser (270 pounds) who moved right into a starting job last year as a rookie, and he seems destined for a banner pro career. Manning the other two up-front spots are tackle Mike Kadish and end Sherman White, both seven-year veterans with the right combination of size and experience.
right combination of size and experience.

The reserve strength in the defensive front wall is pretty sound, with those on hand led by ex-Washington Redskin Dennis Johnson, Scott Hutchinson and Mekeli Ieremia. One individual who would brighten the picture considerably, provided he's 100% again, is Phil Dokes, who spent most of last year on the injured list.

Anyone with just a slight knowledge of football, no matter what level it's played at, can tell you that the "key" to a tough defense against the run is a rock-ribbed linebacking corps. The closest the Bills' linebackers come to that description is to say most of them will be on "rocky ground" if they don't improve in the art of stopping enemy ball carriers.

There are, of course, exceptions to every rule, and Lucius Sanford is an exception in this case. Because this young head-knocker, who blocked two field goal attempts in the same game (against Kansas City) last season, is a whale of a 'backer prospect. Now, if only the Bills can find a few more like him!

Sanford plugs one outside linebacking spot, while opposite him is Shane Nelson, with Tom Graham handling the middle. Backstopping them are Doug Becker, Randy McClanahan, Dan Jilek and Mario Celotto, the latter returning from the injured reserve list. To put it mildly, the 'backer corps hardly overwhelms us, and we have to suspect the Bills may be making personnel changes in this area before the season is over.

The secondary is the strongest part of the defensive unit, and that brigade of ball-hawks is spearheaded by free safety Tony Greene and cornerback Mario Clark. Last season, Greene and Clark teamed up for eight interceptions, and both are noted as solid defenders against the run as well.

Stalking the deep zones with them will be cornerback Charles Romes, who ran an intercepted pass back 85 yards for a TD last year, and strong safety Steve Freeman. That gives the Bills good overall strength as far as starters go in the secondary, and depth is also adequate with Keith Moody, Eddie McMillan, Doug Jones and Marv Switzer on call. Moody doubles as a kicker returner, and in that department, he's one of the NFL's best. Last season, Moody returned a punt 82-yards for the score on his way to a 12.6-yard return average, and that was the third consecutive year he ran a punt all the way back to paydirt.

The kicking game is like a reunion of ex-Los Angeles players, Tom Dempsey and Rusty Jackson, and it seems ironic that both were with the Rams at the same time Chuck Knox was coaching that team. Placekicker Dempsey set a Buffalo team record last year, his first with the Bills, when he connected on .769 percent (10-13) of his field goal attempts.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Toward the end of last season, the Bills appeared to pick up momentum as they adjusted to new Coach Knox. So the '78 campaign ended on a bright note. This year, the key to keeping that momentum going is improved defensive play, and a minimum of injuries over on offense. It should also be noted that, at this writing, the Bills had a long list of free agents. Chief among these are five who were regulars last year -- OG McKenzie, LB Graham, DT Kadish, DE White and kicker Dempsey. Assuming the Bills are able to hold onto some (or, hopefully, all) of them, Coach Knox's second year at the helm should be even more successful. The offense will again be the team's focal point, and with this high-octane unit lighting up the scoreboard often, it falls to their defensive buddies to hold up their end by shutting off opponents with greater consistency. We do foresee a stronger gang of stoppers this season, but that improvement won't be great enough to make the Bills a title threat in the AFC East. After finishing last year tied with Baltimore for last place in their division, Buffalo has the necessary ingredients for a much better showing in '79.

Baltimore Colts

(5-11-0)

Remember, earlier this year, when the General Motors Company was found guilty of mis-representing its product by putting Chevrolet engines in some of their luxury-class Oldsmobiles? Well, the unfortunate consumers who bought those under-powered Oldsmobiles have something in common with disillusioned fans who turned out to see last year's Baltimore Colts. Because the highly regarded Colts, AFC East champions the previous three years, chugged along like an old Model-T.

The whys and wherefores that led to the collapse of the Colts included disputes between players and management, injuries to "key" players like quarterback Bert Jones, and the general inability of Coach Ted Marchibroda's gridders to really settle down and play football. And it wasn't that the Colts were just losing games last season, they were getting blown out of the water -- 38-0 to Dallas, 42-0 to Miami, 33-10 to the NY Jets, 35-13 to Pittsburgh.

Do all the "problems" that hounded the Colts sound like Soap Opera stuff?

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Kansas City
Sep	9	TAMPA BAY
Sep	16	Cleveland
Sep	23	Pittsburgh
Sep	30	BUFFALO
Oct	7	NY JETS
Oct	14	HOUSTON
Oct	21	Buffalo
Oct	28	NEW ENGLAND
Nov	4	CINCINNATI
Nov	11	Miami
Nov	18	New England
Nov	25	MIAMI
Dec	2	NY Jets
Dec	9	KANSAS CITY
Dec	16	NY Giants

Colts	1978 Results	Opp
0	at Dallas	38
0	Miami	42
34	at New England	27
17	at Buffalo	24
14	Philadelphia	17
30	at St. Louis	17
10	N.Y. Jets	33
7	Denver	6
8	at Miami	26
21	Washington	17
17	at Seattle	14
24	Cleveland	45
14	New England	35
16	at N.Y. Jets	24
13	at Pittsburgh	35
14	Buffalo	21

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Well, that's how many others felt, which is the reason the coming NFL campaign looms as a crossroads for this talented, but troubled, team as they attempt to climb back into the AFC title chase.

OFFENSE: The single individual upon whose shoulders the burden of success or failure will rest most heavily is quarterback Bert Jones. Last season, when Jones attempted only 42 passes (27 completions, four TDs) he was up and down with injuries more often than some prize fighters. And if there was ever any doubt about his importance to the Colts' success, his absence for most of the campaign proved his value once and for all.

Bill Troup was the most active signal caller a year ago, putting the pigskin in the air 296 times for 154 completions, 10 touchdowns and 21 interceptions. Mike Kirkland (19-41 in '78) also had a brief fling at quarterback, but in the final analysis, the attack just wasn't the same without Bert Jones under center. All indications are that Jones is 100% again, which can only spell good news for the Colts and their loyal fans.

The receiving corps was also hit by physical maladies last season, and the most reliable of this group was wide receiver Glenn Doughty, who hauled in 25 aerials for 390 yards and three TDs. Normally, his running mate at wideout is Roger Carr, who averaged 21.0 yards and caught six scoring passes (on 30 receptions) when he wasn't hurt a year ago. When both are healthy, Doughty and Carr give the Colts a fine set of deep threats. Randy Burke and ex-Oakland Raider Mike Siani are the back-ups on the outside, but they, too, endured injury problems in '78 -- although Siani did rebound late in the campaign to average a sizzling 26.1 yards on six catches.

Young giant Reese McCall (6-6, 235), responsible for 11 receptions last year, is the tight end, with support from Mack Alston, who caught 18 aerials in '78. McCall, the Colts' No. 1 pick in the college draft last year, moved right in as a starter when disgruntled Raymond Chester was traded. While McCall still has some rough edges, he has the makings of a fine tight end once he's logged enough experience.

Another disgruntled warrior, Lydell Mitchell, was also traded away before the start of last season, and the rushing attack suffered early in the campaign. However, once he got his footing, ex-San Diego Charger Joe Washington came on like gangbusters to finish with 956 ground yards on 240 carries, and his 45 pass receptions were tops on the team in '78. A truly explosive open-field runner, Washington finished second (behind Cleveland's Keith Wright) in the AFC at running back punts with a 26.2 yard average, and it was his 80-yard TD scamper that clinched Baltimore's 34-27 win over New England in the first meeting between the two teams last season.

The remaining ball toters in camp -- Ron Lee, Roosevelt Leaks, Don Hardeman and Don McCauley -- are noted as power runners. Lee paced that foursome in ground yardage with 374 last season, while veteran McCauley was second on the team with 34 pass receptions. But the 235-pound Hardeman, a former No. 1 draft pick of the Houston Oilers, could be the top honcho in the group based on his strong performance at the end of the '78 campaign.

The injury bugaboo took a heavy toll in the offensive line a year ago, cutting down regular tackles George Kunz and David Taylor, the team's best pass blockers. Their places were taken by Wade Griffin and Bob Van Duyne, good prospects, but limited in experience. Taylor came back late in the '78 campaign, and his full-time presence will help this season, but Kunz may retire from pro football. In which case, look for Griffin to hold down that tackle spot again, backed up by Van Duyne and Don Morrison.

In ever-reliable Ken Mendenhall, the Colts have one of the premier centers in the league -- although he seldom receives the recognition due him. Lined up at the guards are Robert Pratt and Ken Huff, whom we'll refer to as the "Tarheel Tandem" since both played college ball at North Carolina. Reserve strength in the middle of the front wall, which rates only about a "C" mark, consists of Forrest Blue, Geoff Reece and Ron Baker. But you have to wonder about the status of the 34-year-old Blue, who spent most of last season on the injured list.

DEFENSE: As "Humble Howie" puts it: "Let's tell it like it is!" The Baltimore defensive unit should hang their heads in shame for their miserable performance

Baltimore Colts 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
83	Alston, Mack	TE	6-3	238	32	10	Maryland	16
60	Baker, Ron	OG	6-4	247	25	2	Oklahoma St	16
63	Barnes, Mike	DT	6-6	256	29	7	Miami (Fla.)	10
47	Baylor, Tim	DB	6-6	201	25	4	Morgan St	16
	Black, Tim	LB	6-2	225	23	2	Baylor	-
44	Blackwood, Lyle	DB	6-0	190	28	7	Texas Christian	16
50	Blue, Forrst	C	6-6	260	34	12	Auburn	13
84	Burke, Randy	WR	6-1	186	24	2	Kentucky	15
	Bush, Ron	DB	6-0	187	25	1	Southern Cal	-
81	Carr, Roger	WR	6-3	200	27	6	La. Tech	16
	Clabo, Neil	P	6-0	205	27	6	Tennessee	-
72	Cook, Fred	DE	6-3	243	27	6	Southern Miss.	16
35	Doughty, Glenn	WR	6-1	201	28	7	Michigan	16
78	Dutton, John	DE	6-7	264	28	6	Nebraska	14
76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	6-4	256	30	7	Syracuse	15
73	Fernandes, Ron	DE	6-4	255	28	5	Eastern Michigan	-
	Garry, Ben	RB	6-1	212	23	0	Southern Miss.	-
69	Griffin, Wade	OT	6-5	231	25	2	Mississippi	16
36	Hardeman, Don	RB	6-2	235	27	5	Texas A&I	13
28	Harrison, Dwight	DB	6-2	186	31	9	Texas A&I	15
	Helms, Ken	C	6-5	255	24	3	Georgia	-
	Henderson, John	DB	5-11	188	23	1	Georgia	-
62	Huff, Ken	OG	6-4	255	26	5	North Carolina	16
	Jackson, Nate	RB	6-1	240	25	1	Tennessee St	-
80	Johnson, Marshall	WR	6-1	196	27	3	Houston	15
7	Jones, Bert	QB	6-3	208	28	7	LSU	3
15	Kirkland, Mike	QB	6-1	184	25	4	Arkansas	16
75	Kunz, George	OT	6-5	265	32	11	Notre Dame	1
40	Laird, Bruce	DB	6-1	196	29	8	American Int'nl.	16
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	FB	5-10	218	26	5	Texas	12
49	Lee, David	P	6-5	223	36	14	La. Tech	16
34	Lee, Ron	RB	6-4	234	26	4	West Virginia	15
2	Linhart, Toni	K	5-11	183	37	6	Austria Tech	16
	Long, Carson	K	5-11	200	25	3	Pittsburgh	-
58	Luce, Derrel	LB	6-3	224	27	5	Baylor	16
52	MacLeod, Tom	LB	6-4	224	28	6	Minnesota	12
66	Marshall, Greg	DT	6-3	257	23	2	Oregon St	2
86	McCall, Reese	TE	6-7	232	23	2	Auburn	16
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6-1	215	30	9	North Carolina	15
57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6-3	247	31	9	Oklahoma	16
79	Morrison, Don	OT	6-5	265	30	8	Texas-Southern	14
42	Mumphord, Lloyd	DB	5-10	173	33	11	Texas-Arlington	16
30	Nettles, Doug	DB	6-0	185	28	5	Vanderbilt	16
55	O'Dell, Stu	LB	6-1	220	28	6	Indiana	14
51	O'Neal, Calvin	LB	6-1	235	25	2	Michigan	15
88	Orvis, Herb	DT	6-5	255	33	8	Colorado	2
71	Ozdowski, Mike	DE	6-5	243	24	2	Virginia	16
	Pinkney, Reggie	DB	5-11	185	23	3	East Carolina	-
61	Pratt, Robert	OG	6-4	245	28	6	North Carolina	15
59	Reece, Geoff	C	6-4	247	27	4	Washington St	0
74	Rowe, David	DT	6-7	270	34	13	Penn St	13
54	Shiver, Sanders	LB	6-2	228	24	4	Carson-Newman	16
45	Siani, Mike	WR	6-2	195	29	7	Villanova	7
	Shelby, Willie	RB	5-11	200	26	4	Alabama	-
56	Simonini, Ed	LB	6-0	210	25	4	Texas A&M	16
	Strickland, Ed	K	6-0	205	30	1	Mid. Tenn. St	-
64	Taylor, David	OT	6-5	265	30	7	Catawba	-
43	Thompson, Norm	DB	6-1	183	34	9	Utah	16
12	Troup, Bill	QB	6-5	216	28	6	South Carolina	12
67	Van Duyne, Bob	OG	6-4	245	27	6	Idaho	14
20	Washington, Joe	RB	5-10	183	26	4	Oklahoma	16
53	White, Stan	LB	6-1	224	30	8	Ohio St	12
	Woods, Mike	LB	6-3	230	25	0	Cincinnati	-

1978 LEADERS				
PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Troup	296/154	21	1882	10
Kirkland	41/19	8	211	1
REC	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
Washington	45	377	8.4	1
McCooley	34	296	8.7	0
INT	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
Thompson	6	52	8.7	0
Blackwood	4	146	36.5	2
RUSH	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Washington	240	956	4.0	0
R. Lee	81	374	4.6	1
PUNT	NO	YDS	AVG	BK
D. Lee	92	3513	38.2	2
SCORE	TD	EP/MA	FG/MA	PTS
Linhart	0	27/31	8/17	51
Carr	6	0/0	0/0	36

1978 Regular Season Statistics	COLTS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	249	291
NET RUSH	2044	3010
Avg Per Game	127.8	188.1
NET PASS	2063	2901
Att/Comp	383/202	257/191
Had Int	30	17
Avg Per Game	129.1	181.3
PUNTS/AVG	94/37.4	80/35.7
Punts Return/Yds	35/219	53/460
Avg Per Return	6.3	8.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	74/1648	52/1271
Avg Per Return	22.3	24.4
FUMBLES/LOST	38/17	36/20
FIELD GOALS	8/17	14/24
PATS	27/31	53/54
TOTAL POINTS	239	421

last season. Okay, we'll admit that injuries, most notably at the linebacking spots, had something to do with their vulnerability to enemy attacks in '78. But even an epidemic of Small Pox couldn't justify giving up (for shame!) 369.4 yards-per-game and 54 TDs.

The team's defensive line, the fabled "Sack Pack," did very little to live up to its fancy nickname last season. With a paltry total of six, flankman John Dutton led the "Sack Pack" in its supposed speciality, followed by counterpart Fred Cook with five. However, it's pretty much a foregone conclusion that Dutton, outspoken in his dislike for playing with the Colts, will not be around much longer. In line to occupy his spot are Mike Ozdowski and Ron Fernandes, the latter hurt most of '78. Ozdowski could be just what the doctor ordered, although there's speculation he may wind up being moved to linebacker.

Trying to shore up the middle of the front wall are Joe Ehrmann and Mike Barnes, solid tackles when the injury bug doesn't put the bite on them. Back-ups at the tackles are veteran Dave Rowe, Greg Marshall and ex-Detroit Lion Herb Orvis, out last year because of an injury. The defensive line should be harder to penetrate, even if Dutton goes his merry way, provided injuries and erratic play don't rear their ugly heads.

The linebacking corps needs an overhaul, there's little question of that, although "mike" man Ed Simonini appears to be entrenched after a team-high 256 total stops last year. He is supported by Calvin O'Neal and, returning from the injured ranks, Mike Woods - the Colts' No. 2 pick in the '78 college draft.

On the outside, there's Stan White, Tom MacLeod, Derrell Luce and Sanders Shiver in the running for starting rights. White should nail down one of those spots, and he's a super defender when healthy, as was not always the case last season. Luce is our pick to start on the other side, but don't overlook converted DE Ozdowski here.

The secondary was victimized by an unreliable pass rush in '78, but still and all, the crew in the deep zones held up pretty well under fire. Especially noteworthy is the play of safeties Bruce Laird and Lyle Blackwood. Blackwood not only finished second in total tackles last season with 181, he also intercepted four passes -- two of which he returned for touchdowns.

Norm Thompson, a former All-Pro with the St. Louis Cardinals, is set at one cornerback. Last year, his first with the Colts, Thompson led the team with six pass thefts. Opposite him is Doug Nettles. Lloyd Mumphord, Dwight Harrison and Tim Baylor supply depth in the secondary, which doesn't impress us all that much.

The kicking duties are the domain of Toni Linhart (placements) and David Lee (punter), neither of whom enjoyed good fortune in '78. They will have to improve, especially in terms of consistency, or their days in Baltimore may be numbered.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The bottom fell out on the Colts last season, and it was only by the skin of his teeth that Coach Ted Marchibroda managed to hang onto his job. This year, Marchibroda should be able to breath a little easier since the Colts have the talent on hand to wipe out the horrid memory of the '78 campaign. Starting on offense, a healthy Bert Jones at quarterback is absolutely essential for a productive attack, and we figure he's young enough to bounce back in top-form. His superb passing, combined with the talents of a fine, but oft-injured receiving corps, add up to a powerful air attack. And the continued progress of relative newcomers Joe Washington and Hardeman at running back will make the rushing game potent as well. The offensive front wall may undergo some changes, but the blocking corps should prove to be adequate. The defensive unit will go one of two ways -- either they'll pull up their socks and play like they did prior to last season, or the whole defensive house-of-cards will come toppling down. We tend to suspect it will be more of the former than the latter, and a stronger defense should springboard the Colts back into respectability in the AFC East.

Baltimore Colts Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	230	Alabama
Anderson, Kim	DB	5-11	185	Arizona St
Braziel, Larry	DB	6-0	185	South'n Cal
Moore, Jimmy	OT	6-5	255	Ohio State
Heimkreiter, Steve	LB	6-2	245	Notre Dame
Henderson, Russ	P	6-2	205	Virginia
Stephens, Steve	TE	6-3	230	Oklahoma St
Priestner, John	LB	6-2	230	West'n Ontario
Green, Charlie	WR	6-1	180	Kansas St

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AFC CENTRAL

Terry Bradshaw and Mike Webster, Pittsburgh Steelers

Pittsburgh Steelers

(17-2-0)

They are the "Terrible Towels." They are the bad guys in Cowboy movies, dressed in black, gunning down the Roger Staubachs at the O.K. Corral. "They" are the Pittsburgh Steelers, the NFL's resident bullies, a team that doesn't win football games, but pummels opponents into a state of submission.

First, the Steelers hit you with their bare-knuckles defensive unit, which surrenders very little via the passing lanes, and even less on the ground. Then, comes their knockout punch, an offense that can wear an opponent down with its relentless Franco Harris-led rushing attack, or score the TKO with the blinding quickness of a Terry Bradshaw pass to Lynn Swann or John Stallworth.

Last season, for the third time in five years, the black-shirts from the Steel City marched to the NFL championship. On the way to that title, capped by a 35-31 Super Bowl win over Dallas, the Steelers ranked among the league leaders in numerous offensive and defensive categories, culminating in ten Pittsburgh players being selected to the AFC roster for the Pro Bowl. But hold onto your hats, because in the estimation of Coach Chuck Noll, his team "hasn't peaked yet." Now, that statement is bound to send tremors throughout the rest of the NFL!

OFFENSE: There's hardly enough adjectives to aptly describe quarterback Terry Bradshaw, the major domo on offense for the Steelers. Last season, on his way to earning consensus All-Pro honors, Bradshaw hit the target on 207 of 368 passes (56.3%), including a league-high 28 touchdown strikes. Entering his ninth pro season, the rugged Bradshaw has firmly established himself as one of the game's finest signal callers, and only a recurrence of the injuries that have bothered him in the past will prevent his ranking among the NFL passing leaders again this season.

Backing him up are Mike Kruczek and Cliff Stoudt. Kruczek has filled in -- and filled in well -- when Bradshaw was injured in the past, so there would be no need to hit the panic button should he be called on to run the offense again. Stoudt, on the other hand, has yet to attempt a forward pass in a regular season game, so needless to say, his experience is limited.

At the wide receiving spots, the Steelers have a double dose of dynamite in Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, and trying to cope with this explosive duo is enough to drive enemy defensive backs bonkers. Last season, Swann scampered for 880 yards and 11 TDs on 61 catches, while Stallworth added nine scoring receptions and 798 yards on 41 grabs. There's no drop-off in the reserve department at the wide outs, with speedsters Jim Smith and Theo Bell on hand.

Dependable six-year pro Randy Grossman, who latched onto 37 aerials last season, is stationed at tight end. However, Grossman may be relegated to back-up status now that bruising Bennie Cunningham (16 catches, 20.1 yard average in '78) has recovered from an injury that waylaid him early last year.

The rushing attack revolves around Franco Harris, who vaulted into fifth place in the NFL's all-time ground gaining list (7,377) when he hurtled for 1,082 yards and eight touchdowns on 310 carries last season. Harris is an indestructable ball toter who has rushed for 1,000 or more yards six times in his seven pro years, establishing himself as one of the great running backs in pro history.

Hard-nosed Rocky Bleier, a savage blocker who rushed for 633 yards in '78, starts at the opposite running back. Supplying depth at the ball toting spots are a trio of promising youngsters -- Sidney Thornton, Rick Moser and Jack Deloplaine. The Steelers are also hopeful that 4.4 speedster Laverne Smith, out much of the last two years with injuries, can stay healthy and supply a breakaway threat in the rushing attack.

Team work and consistency are the strong points in the offensive interior line, and without their solid blocking, the Steelers wouldn't enjoy such a balanced and productive attack. Pro-Bowler Mike Webster is over the ball at center, flanked by guards Sam Davis and Gerry Mullins, a trio that supplies plenty of running room up the middle, along with excellent pass protection.

Jon Kolb and Ray Pinney fill the tackle holes. Both of them are accomplished blockers, and they add the finishing touches to one of the NFL's premier offensive lines. Depth up front, however, is not so stable, with those on call led by Larry Brown, Steve Courson and Ted Petersen. The Steelers also hope to see more of guard candidate John Hicks, out all of '78 due to injury after coming over in a trade with the NY Giants. But the possibility of his returning still doesn't satisfy us that reserve strength will be anything more than just adequate.

DEFENSE: After an "off" performance two years ago, caused by contract disputes and internal squabbling, the Steeler defense rebounded with a vengeance in '78. Overall, the Pittsburgh stop troops led the entire NFL in scoring defense (just 195 points allowed) and ranked No. 1 among AFC teams in both total and rushing defense last season.

1979 Schedule

Sep	3	New England
Sep	9	HOUSTON
Sep	16	St. Louis
Sep	23	BALTIMORE
Sep	30	Philadelphia
Oct	7	Cleveland
Oct	14	Cincinnati
Oct	22	DENVER
Oct	28	DALLAS
Nov	4	WASHINGTON
Nov	11	Kansas City
Nov	18	San Diego
Nov	25	CLEVELAND
Dec	2	CINCINNATI
Dec	10	Houston
Dec	16	BUFFALO

Steelers	1978 Results	Opp
28	at Buffalo	17
21	Seattle	10
28	at Cincinnati	3
15	Cleveland	9
28	at N.Y. Jets	17
31	Atlanta	7
34	at Cleveland	14
17	Houston	24
27	Kansas City	24
20	New Orleans	14
7	at Los Angeles	10
7	Cincinnati	6
24	at San Francisco	7
13	at Houston	3
35	Baltimore	13
21	at Denver	17

Pittsburgh Steelers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Hawthorne, Greg	RB	6-2	214	Baylor
Valentine, Zack	LB	6-3	200	East Carolina
Davis, Russell	RB	6-2	215	Michigan
Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6-2	181	S'thern Cal
Board, Dwaine	DE	6-4	240	N Carolina A&T
Murrell, Bill	TE	6-3	215	Winston-Salem
Woodruff, Dwayne	DB	6-0	192	Louisville
Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	160	Penn State
Kimball, Bruce	OG	6-1	255	Massachusetts
Kirk, Rich	DE	6-4	235	Denison
Thompson, Tod	TE	6-5	210	Brigham Young
Moore, Charlie	C	6-4	240	Wichita St
Smith, Ed	LB	6-2	209	Vanderbilt
Armond, Mike	WR	6-0	190	NW Louisiana

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1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Bradshaw	368/207	20	2915	28
Kruczek	11/5	2	46	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Swann	61	880	14.4	11
Stallworth	41	798	19.5	9
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Dungy	6	95	15.8	0
Blount	4	55	13.8	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Harris	310	1082	3.5	8
Bleier	165	633	3.8	5
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Colquitt	66	2642	40.0	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Gerela	0	45/44	26/12	80
Swann	11	0/0	0/0	66

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	STEELERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	316	264
NET RUSH	2297	1774
Avg Per Game	143.6	110.9
NET PASS	2690	2394
Att/Comp	380/212	442/221
Had Int	22	27
Avg Per Game	168.1	149.6
PUNTS/AVG	66/40.0	82/39.4
Punts Return/Yds	58/451	38/239
Avg Per Return	7.8	6.3
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	44/1043	60/1336
Avg Per Return	23.7	22.3
FUMBLES/LOST	35/17	33/21
FIELD GOALS	26/12	26/14
PATS	45/44	22/21
TOTAL POINTS	356	195

In the defensive line -- the heralded "Steel Curtain" -- the leaders are still tackle Joe Greene and flankman L.C. Greenwood. A year ago, on their way to Pro Bowl selection, Greene and Greenwood combined for 13½ quarterback sacks and 138 total tackles, and they provide a steadying influence for the rest of the pit crew.

Dividing playing time at the other two up front spots are tackles Steve Furness and Gary Dunn, along with ends John Banaszak and Dwight White -- all of them solid defenders. Others available in the defensive frontage are Tom Beasley and Fred Anderson, and the Steelers have high expectations for end Willie Fry, their No. 2 pick in last year's college draft who missed the '78 action due to an injury, but said to be 100% again. Tremendous depth and excellent talent are the trademarks of the "Steel Curtain," making this one of the finest first lines of resistance in the game.

Just as super is the linebacking, paced by perennial All-Pros Jack Lambert

Pittsburgh Steelers 1979 Veterans Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
69	Anderson, Fred	DE/DT	6-4	235	25	2	Prairie View A&M	16
30	Anderson, Larry	CB/KR	5-11	177	23	1	Louisiana Tech	16
76	Banaszak, John	DE/DT	6-3	244	29	5	Eastern Michigan	16
65	Beasley, Tom	DT	6-5	253	25	2	Virginia Tech	15
83	Bell, Theo	WR/KR	5-11	180	26	3	Arizona	16
20	Bleier, Rocky	RB	5-11	210	33	11	Notre Dame	16
47	Blount, Mel	CB	6-3	205	31	11	Southern U	16
12	Bradshaw, Terry	QB	6-3	215	31	10	Louisiana Tech	16
79	Brown, Larry	OT	6-4	245	30	9	Kansas	8
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	220	24	3	New Mexico	16
5	Colquitt, Craig	P	6-1	182	25	2	Tennessee	16
77	Courson, Steve	G	6-1	260	26	2	S Carolina	16
89	Cunningham, Bennie	TE	6-5	247	25	4	Clemson	6
57	Davis, Sam	G	6-1	255	35	13	Allen U	16
35	Deloplaine, Jack	RB	5-10	205	25	4	Salem	10
63	Dornbrook, Tom	C-G	6-2	240	23	1	Kentucky	0
21	Dungy, Tony	S	6-0	190	24	3	Minnesota	16
67	Dunn, Gary	DT	6-3	247	26	3	Miami (Fla)	16
62	Fry, Willie	LB	6-3	240	24	1	Notre Dame	0
64	Furness, Steve	DT/DE	6-4	255	29	8	Rhode Island	10
10	Gerela, Roy	K	5-10	185	31	11	New Mexico St	16
75	Greene, Joe	DT	6-4	264	33	11	N Texas St	16
68	Greenwood, L.C.	DE	6-6	250	33	11	Arkansas AM&N	14
84	Grossman, Randy	TE	6-1	215	27	6	Temple	16
59	Ham, Jack	LB	6-1	225	31	9	Penn St	14
32	Harris, Franco	RB	6-2	225	29	8	Penn St	16
61	Hicks, John	G	6-2	260	28	6	Ohio St.	0
29	Johnson, Ron	CB	5-10	200	23	2	Eastern Michigan	16
85	Keys, Andre	WR	6-6	223	24	1	California Poly	0
55	Kolb, Jon	OT	6-2	262	32	11	Oklahoma St	16
15	Mike, Kruczek	QB	6-1	205	26	4	Boston Coll	9
58	Lambert, Jack	LB	6-4	220	27	6	Kent St	16
39	Moser, Rick	RB	6-0	210	23	2	Rhode Island	15
72	Mullins, Gerry	G	6-3	244	30	9	Southern Cal	16
25	Oldham, Ray	S	5-11	192	28	7	Middle Tenn St	4
66	Petersen, Ted	C/OT	6-5	244	24	3	Eastern Illinois	15
74	Pinney, Ray	OT/G	6-4	240	24	4	Washington	13
40	Reutershan, Randy	WR	5-10	182	24	2	Pitt	11
31	Shell, Donnie	S	5-11	190	27	6	Southern Carolina St	16
86	Smith, Jim	WR/KR	6-2	205	24	3	Michigan	9
37	Smith, Laverne	RB	5-10	193	25	2	Kansas	0
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	183	27	6	Alabama A&M	16
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	218	24	3	Youngstown St	0
88	Swann, Lynn	WR	6-0	180	27	6	Southern Cal	16
24	Thomas, J.T.	CB	6-2	196	28	6	Florida St	0
38	Thornton, Sidney	RB	5-11	230	25	3	Northwestern La	16
51	Toews, Loren	LB	6-3	222	28	7	California	11
23	Wagner, Mike	S	6-1	200	30	9	Western Illinois	14
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1	250	27	6	Wisconsin	16
78	White, Dwight	DE	6-4	255	30	9	East Texas St	15
53	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	228	24	3	Arkansas	16

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(middle) and Jack Ham (outside). A year ago, Lambert and Ham teamed up for 272 total tackles and seven pass interceptions, and you couldn't find two better 'backers on the same team anywhere in the NFL.

Loren Toews and Robin Cole share duty at the other outside linebacking spot. Foremost of the reserve 'backers is Dennis Winston, another standout who could be a regular for many pro teams.

The last line of defense, the secondary, is bulwarked by yet another pair of Pro Bowlers – cornerback Mel Blount and strong safety Donnie Shell. Free safety duties are capably handled by Mike Wagner, who rebounded from a serious neck injury to lead the secondary in tackles with 103 last season. The remaining deep spot is manned by cornerback Ron Johnson, elevated to regular status in '78 when J.T. Thomas was forced to the sidelines by a blood disorder. Johnson turned in a pretty solid performance for a first-year pro, but he could lose out this time around to Thomas, said to be healthy and raring to go again.

Tony Dungy, who led the '78 Steelers with six pass interceptions despite his non-starter status, is the premier backup at safety. At cornerback, the reserve list is headed by speedy Larry Anderson, a second-year pro who put wings on the kick return game last season with his 25.1 yard average (including a 95-yard TD scamper) on 37 kickoff runbacks.

The Steelers used a third round choice in last year's college draft to select punter Craig Colquitt, and he rewarded them with a 40.0 yard average on 66 kicks. Not nearly as secure is the placekicking, since long-time booter Roy Gerela (44-45 PATs; 12-26 field goals in '78) may be on his way out.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Last season, the Steelers left a lot of preseason prognosticators with egg on their faces, as Coach Chuck Noll's pigskinners drove to the NFL title. But we'd be willing to bet anything that those same forecasters will be falling all over themselves this year, picking Pittsburgh to repeat with a win in Super Bowl XIV. And with good reason, since the deep and talented Steelers certainly have the ingredients to carry off what would be their fourth league championship in six years. On offense, what more could you ask for than Bradshaw pitching to the likes of Swann and Stallworth, or handing the pigskin to perennial 1,000-yard rusher Franco Harris? Clearing the way for them is a powerful blocking corps which has only one shortcoming – lack of proven depth. Spearheaded by the rejuvenated "Steel Curtain" front wall, Pittsburgh's defensive unit is every bit as outstanding, especially at stopping enemy running backs. That's not to imply the passing defense isn't first-rate, of course, because the Steelers have some ball-hawks roaming the secondary who will cause opposing quarterbacks more than a few anxious moments. Put it all together, and it adds up to a superb football team Coach Noll leads into the '79 NFL wars -- a club that has to be considered an odds-on favorite to win its sixth straight AFC Central title. The BIG question, obviously, is can the Steelers go all the way again this season? Well, according to our crystal ball, the chances of Pittsburgh repeating are excellent if the "guys in black" continue playing with the tremendous pride and intensity that marked their drive to the top last season.

SPORTS REPORTER makes cents! Pro best bets 62%, 70%, 60% the last three years.
See page 65

Houston Oilers

12-7-0

The state of Texas has come a long way since the days of Cowboys and Indians, cattle rustling and gun fights in the dusty streets of Laredo. But even today, there isn't a Texan worth his ten-gallon hat who doesn't appreciate the value of a good horse. Which explains why pro football fans in Houston are absolutely ga-ga over Oiler running back Earl Campbell, a thoroughbred "hoss" who burst upon the NFL scene last year like the reincarnation of Man-O-War.

Campbell, a 225-pound sprinter and former Heisman Trophy winner at Texas, galloped for a league-high 1,450 yards and 13 TDs in his first NFL campaign. With that rare combination of power and quickness, Campbell was the bellwether in Houston's drive to the NFL playoffs last season, where the Oilers scored victories over Miami and New England before losing in the AFC title game to Pittsburgh.

Embarking on his second year as a pro, Campbell again looms as Houston's ultimate weapon on offense, although that's not to imply he's the team's only real weapon. On the contrary, Coach Bum Phillips has assembled a solid attack force in his five years at the helm, and he'll make full use of everything in the team's arsenal to land the Oilers a second consecutive playoff berth in '79.

OFFENSE: Setting the attack in motion is veteran quarterback Dan Pastorini, who enjoyed perhaps his best pro season in '78 when he tossed completions on 199 of 368 passes for 2,473 yards and 16 TDs. Pastorini endured more than his share of criticism early in his NFL career when the Oilers were struggling. But Dante has matured and improved right along with the team, and entering his ninth year in pro football, he's recognized as a polished signal caller with just the right combination of experience and ability.

Not so encouraging is the reserve situation at quarterback, consisting of relative newcomers Gifford Nielsen and Tommy Duniven. A year ago, Nielsen saw only enough action to complete two of four passing attempts, while Duniven didn't throw a single aerial in '78. It goes without saying, therefore, that neither looks capable of taking over at quarterback for at least another couple of years, so the Oilers will do their best to keep Pastorini healthy.

Heading up the pass catching brigade is wide receiver Ken Burrough, a reliable speedster who darted for 624 yards and two TDs on 47 receptions last season. At the other wide receiver spot, playing time was pretty much divided in '78 between ex-NY Jet Rich Caster (20 catches; five TDs) and Mike Renfro (26; two scores). Diminutive Robert Woods (5-7, 170) also saw enough action a year ago to snag six passes, with one of those receptions going for an 80-yard touchdown. However, looming ever so prominent at wide receiver is Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, a dangerous pass catcher and hell-for-leather kick returner back in tow after missing most of the '78 campaign because of injuries. His healthy return will insure that the Oiler aerial attack will be at least as productive as the running game.

Tight end duties are handled by outstanding third-year pro Mike Barber, one of the fastest players in the NFL at his

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Washington
Sep	9	Pittsburgh
Sep	16	KANSAS CITY
Sep	23	Cincinnati
Sep	30	CLEVELAND
Oct	7	ST. LOUIS
Oct	14	Baltimore
Oct	21	Seattle
Oct	28	NY JETS
Nov	5	Miami
Nov	11	OAKLAND
Nov	18	CINCINNATI
Nov	22	Dallas
Dec	2	Cleveland
Dec	10	PITTSBURGH
Dec	16	PHILADELPHIA

Oilers	1978 Results	Opp
14	at Atlanta	20
20	at Kansas City	17
20	San Francisco	19
10	Los Angeles	10
16	at Cleveland	13
17	at Oakland	21
17	Buffalo	10
24	at Pittsburgh	17
13	at Cincinnati	28
14	Cleveland	10
26	at New England	23
35	Miami	30
17	Cincinnati	10
3	Pittsburgh	13
17	at New Orleans	12
24	San Diego	45

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position. Last season, Barber finished second on the Oilers with 32 catches for a 16.0 yard average and three TDs. He's backed up by lightly experienced Conrad Rucker.

Getting back to the powerful Oiler rushing attack, Earl Campbell heads the list of prospective ball toters. He'll probably be teamed up with Tim Wilson, another big back (6-3, 230) who churned for 431 yards on 129 sorties last season. However, Wilson could succumb to the challenge of Rob Carpenter, who rushed for 348 yards and five TDs a year ago before an injury sidelined him early in the campaign. Carpenter is a gutsy ball carrier with good inside running ability, and his solid blocking is also a big plus. The other veteran on hand is former regular Ronnie Coleman, who sprinted for 180 yards in '78.

It's an old axiom in football that no team can be truly productive on offense without superior blocking in the front wall, and this is true for the Oilers as well. You won't find any all-stars in Houston's offensive interior line, but this unit deserves much of the credit for the team's potent attack.

Over the ball at center is 11-year pro Carl Mauck, the "glue" that holds the front wall together and one of the least acknowledged standouts in the league at the pivot spot. Mauck is flanked at the guard positions by George Reihner and Ed Fisher, while Greg Sampson and Morris Towns occupy the tackles posts.

Foremost of the back-ups in the line are guard/tackle Conway Hayman, a starter in the past, Larry Harris, John Schumacher and David Carter. Hayman's experience makes him a valued reserve, but none of the others are seasoned enough to handle a full-time assignment. So the Oilers can't afford many injuries in the trench.

DEFENSE: Houston has been pretty lucky the last few years on the defensive side of the ledger. Lucky because injuries have been held to a minimum on a unit that, while boasting top-flight starting personnel, is weak when it comes to reserve strength.

In the three-man front wall, the flanks are protected by excellent pass-rushers Elvin Bethea and James Young. Last season, they combined for 14 quarterback sacks, and both play tough defense against the run as well. Pro-Bowler Curley Culp occupies the middle guard spot, and this powerful 265-pound veteran is the finest in the NFL at his position.

Houston Oilers 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
19	Alexander, Willie	CB	6-3	195	9	28	Alcorn A&M	16
86	Barber, Mike	TE	6-3	235	3	26	Louisiana Tech	16
63	Baumgartner, Steve	LB	6-7	235	4	28	Purdue	16
65	Bethea, Elvin	DE	6-2	255	12	33	North Carolina A&T	16
54	Bingham, Gregg	LB	6-1	230	7	28	Purdue	16
52	Brazile, Robert	LB	6-4	238	5	26	Jackson State	16
00	Burrough, Ken	WR	6-3	210	10	31	Texas Southern	16
34	Campbell, Earl	RB	5-11	224	2	24	Texas	15
26	Carpenter, Rob	RB	6-1	214	3	24	Miami, Ohio	11
58	Carter, David	C	6-2	255	2	26	Western Kentucky	16
88	Caster, Rich	WR	6-5	230	9	31	Jackson State	14
47	Coleman, Ronnie	RB	5-11	198	6	28	Alabama A&M	15
78	Culp, Curley	MG	6-1	265	12	33	Arizona State	16
20	Currier, Bill	S	6-0	190	3	24	South Carolina	14
67	Dean, Jimmy	DE	6-4	252	2	24	Texas A&M	3
81	Dirden, Johnnie	WR-KR	6-0	190	2	27	Sam Houston State	16
69	Dorris, Andy	DE	6-4	240	7	28	New Mexico State	16
31	Duncan, Brian	RB	6-0	201	4	27	Southern Methodist	5
11	Duniven, Tommy	QB	6-3	210	3	25	Texas Tech	0
60	Fisher, Ed	G	6-3	250	6	30	Arizona State	16
89	Foster, Eddie	WR	5-10	185	2	25	Houston	0
16	Fritsch, Toni	K	5-7	195	8	34	No College	16
70	Hayman, Conway	T	6-3	260	6	30	Delaware	16
15	Johnson, Al	S	6-0	200	8	29	Cincinnati	7
84	Johnson, Billy	WR	5-9	170	5	27	Widener	5
71	Kennard, Ken	MG	6-2	245	3	25	Angelo State	16
57	Kiner, Steve	LB	6-1	225	9	32	Tennessee	16
25	Knoff, Kurt	S	6-2	188	4	25	Kansas	16
55	Mauck, Carl	C	6-4	250	11	32	Southern Illinois	16
29	Merkens, Guido	WR-S	6-1	200	2	24	Sam Houston State	12
14	Nielsen, Gifford	QB	6-4	205	2	25	Brigham Young	2
18	Parsley, Cliff	P	6-1	211	3	25	Oklahoma	16
7	Pastorini, Dan	QB	6-3	205	9	30	Santa Clara	16
39	Poole, Larry	RB	6-1	195	4	27	Kent State	9
64	Reihner, George	G	6-4	263	3	24	Penn State	9
37	Reinfeldt, Mike	S	6-2	195	4	26	Wisconsin	16
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	184	2	24	Texas Christian	14
87	Rucker, Conrad	TE	6-3	260	2	25	Southern	13
73	Sampson, Greg	T	6-6	270	8	29	Stanford	16
62	Schumacher, John	G	6-3	275	2	24	Southern California	11
27	Stemrick, Greg	CB	5-11	185	5	28	Colorado State	16
53	Stringer, Art	LB	6-1	223	3	25	Ball State	7
51	Thompson, Ted	LB	6-1	220	5	26	Southern Methodist	16
76	Towns, Morris	T	6-4	275	2	25	Missouri	16
31	Voight, Mike	RB	6-0	214	3	25	North Carolina	0
59	Washington, Ted	LB	6-1	245	7	31	Mississippi Valley	16
38	Whittington, C.L.	S	6-1	200	6	27	Prairie View	12
33	Wilson, J.C.	CB-S	6-0	177	2	23	Pittsburgh	16
45	Wilson, Tim	RB	6-3	220	3	25	Maryland	16
42	Woods, Robert	WR-KR	5-7	170	2	24	Grambling	3
77	Young, James	DE	6-2	260	3	29	Texas Southern	16

However, once you get past that starting trio in the defensive line, prospects are no way as encouraging. On call, should injury strike down one of the regulars, are Andy Dorris and Ken Kennard, hardly what you'd like to have filling in over the long haul should a Culp or Bethea go down with injury.

Superb is the best description of the four-man linebacking crew, headlined by outside 'backers Robert Brazile and Ted Washington. A year ago, All-Pro Brazile made 91 solo tackles and recorded four QB sacks, while the muscular Washington made 90 unassisted stops and finished second on the team with 7½ sacks.

There's no drop-off at the two inside linebacking spots, where Gregg Gingham and Steve Kiner are stationed. Bingham made a team-high 109 total tackles in '78, and that was the sixth consecutive year the former Purdue star led the Oilers in that department. Reserve strength at linebacker, just as it is in most areas of the defense, leaves something to be desired, with Ted Thompson and Steve Baumgartner the top honchos.

For, lo, these many years, the Oilers' major weakness on defense has been the play of the secondary crew. Opponents were able to pass for 177.6 yards-per-game and 17 TDs last season, and with basically the same gang back in the deep zones, it's hard to expect a great deal of improvement.

Starting at the cornerback positions are Willie Alexander and Greg Stemrick,

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Pastorini	368/199	17	2473	16
Nielson	4/2	0	0	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Burrough	47	624	13.3	2
Barber	32	513	16.0	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Alexander	5	51	10.2	0
Stemrick	3	65	21.7	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Campbell	302	1450	4.8	13
T. Wilson	129	431	3.3	0
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Parskey	91	3544	38.9	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Campbell	13	0/0	0/0	78
Fritsch	0	31/33	14/18	73

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	OILERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	276	292
NET RUSH	2476	2072
Avg Per Game	154.8	129.5
NET PASS	2338	2842
Att/Comp	374/201	428/240
Had Int	17	17
Avg Per Game	146.1	177.6
PUNTS/AVG	91/38.9	81/42.1
Punts Return/Yds	46/416	54/516
Avg Per Return	9.0	9.5
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	58/1309	58/1360
Avg Per Return	22.6	23.4
FUMBLES/LOST	35/21	27/17
FIELD GOALS	14/18	20/31
PATS	31/34	32/33
TOTAL POINTS	283	298

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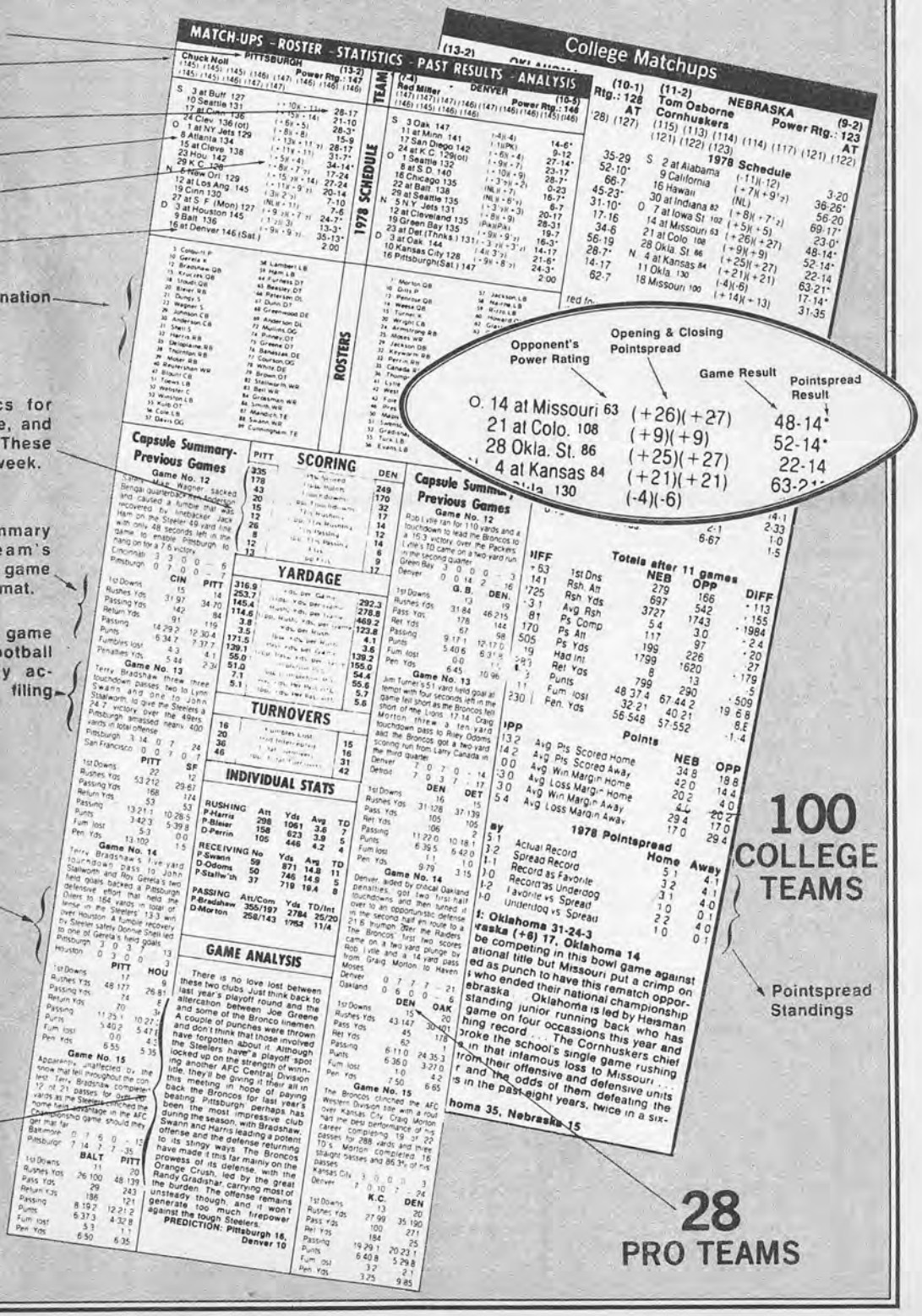


100 COLLEGE TEAMS

28 PRO TEAMS

Pointspread Standings

Houston Oilers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Stensrud, Mike	DT-NT	6-4	270	Iowa State
Baker, Jesse	DE	6-4	275	Jacksonville (A) St
King, Kenny	RB	6-0	220	Oklahoma
Hunt, Daryl	LB	6-4	220	Oklahoma
Murphy, Mike	LB	6-2	215	SW Missouri St
Ries, Tim	DB	6-1	190	SW Missouri St
Ellender, Richard	WR	5-11	180	McNeese
Taylor, Mike	OT	6-7	260	Georgia Tech
Wilson, Wayne	RB	6-1	190	Shepherd

who intercepted five and three passes, respectively, last year. But that twosome also got their ears pinned back all too frequently by enemy passers, so changes in this area may be forthcoming. The leading reserves at the corners, J.C. Wilson and Al Johnson, could improve the situation. Second-year pro Wilson swiped two passes in '78 and showed enough potential to merit consideration as a regular this year.

The safety spots are manned by Bill Currier (strong) and Mike Reinfeldt (weak). Reinfeldt led the secondary with 99 total tackles last season. Former regular C.L. Whittington and Kurt Knoff are the top safety reserves, making this area perhaps the deepest on the defensive unit in terms of capable performers.

Placekicking duties are taken care of by Toni Fritsch, who converted 31 of 33 extra points and 14 of 18 field goals in '78. Cliff Parsley, who averaged 38.9 yards per kick last year, handles punting duties. As far as the kick return game is concerned, Guido Merkens and Johnnie Dirden were the most active Oilers last season. But like we said earlier, the kick return game will be greatly improved with the magical Billy "White Shoes" Johnson healthy again.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Coach Bum Phillips and his Oilers emerged as the "Cinderella" team in last year's NFL playoffs -- before they ran into that gang of myth destroyers from Pittsburgh. Another playoff berth this season is most certainly a possibility for the Oilers, but only if a few conditions are met. First and foremost of these is continued good health by super runner Campbell, who missed some playing time last year with an injury, but generally held up pretty well despite over 300 rushing attempts. There's also a pressing need for continued good health by QB Pastorini and the offensive line, areas where reserve strength is unproven to say the least. The defensive unit, on the whole, faces the same problem -- lack of quality depth. Should too many injuries occur on defense, especially at the all-important linebacking spots, the Oilers will be in real trouble. And while we're on the subject of defense, there's the Houston secondary, which just has to improve if this team is to seriously challenge for top honors. In order for the Oilers to win the title in their own division, they must circumvent the powerful (no, make that the awesome) Pittsburgh Steelers. And quite frankly, we doubt whether Houston or any other club in the AFC Central can accomplish that feat.

Cincinnati Bengals

(4-12-0)

During the first half of the 1978 regular season, when the Bengals were losing their first eight games, they reminded us an awful lot of Charlie Chaplin in one of his slap-stick comedies from the silent movie era. Just as the "Little Tramp" was forever getting run over by trolley cars or having pianos drop on his head, the hard-luck Bengals endured one catastrophe after another.

But you Chaplin fans will also recall that in the final scene of most of his films, the "Little Tramp" usually came out on top -- walking off into the sunset with the prettiest girl on his arm, twirling his ever-present cane. Which is similar to the "happy ending" enjoyed by last year's Bengals, who concluded the season by winning their last three tilts in impressive fashion.

The task of keeping Cincinnati's momentum at its peak throughout the coming NFL season falls to Homer Rice, elevated to the head coaching job in '78 following the dismissal of Bill "Tiger" Johnson. The decision to change skippers was a hard one for Cincinnati's General Manager Paul Brown, since he and Johnson have a long-standing friendship that dates back to their days together in the old All-American Football Conference.

But it had to be done, just as Homer's head will roll if the Bengals prove to be pussycats.

1979 Schedule

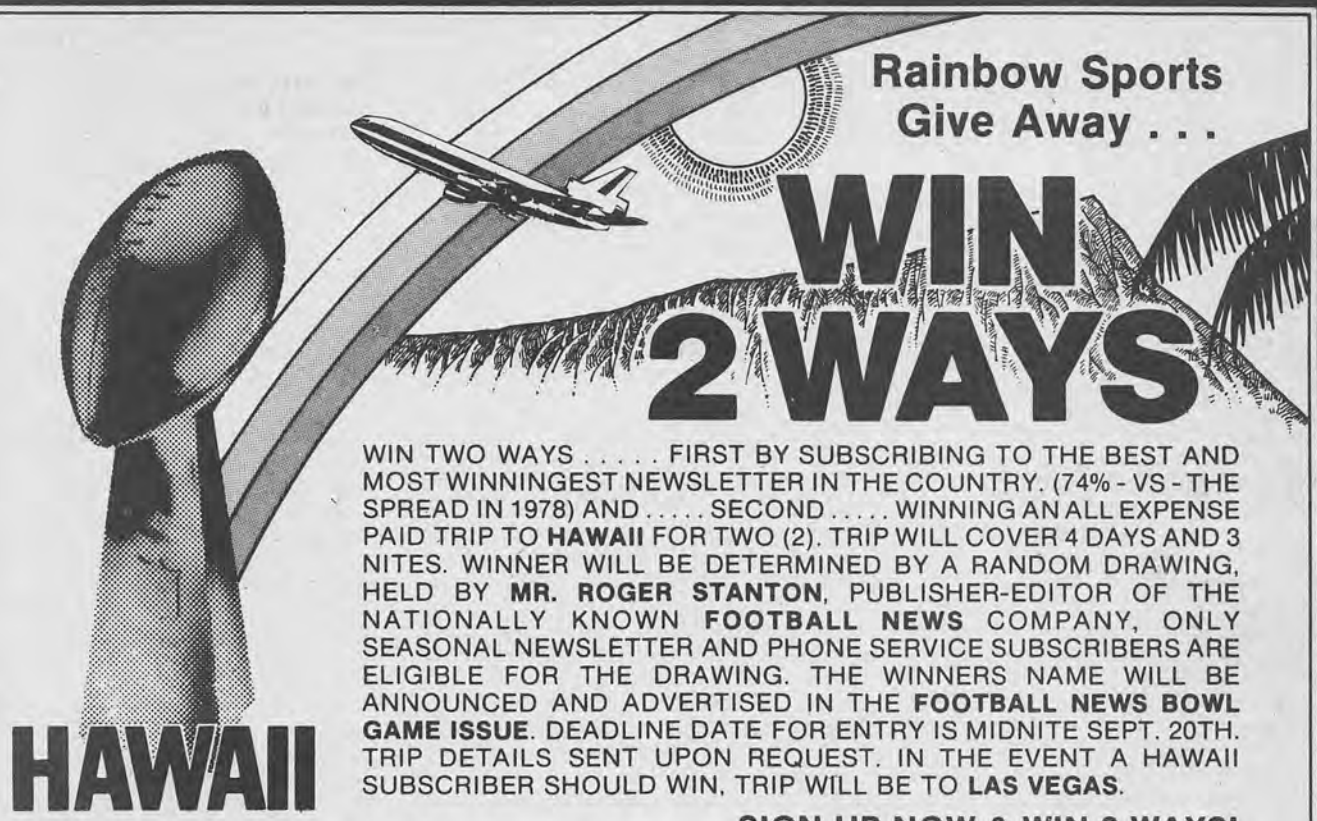
Sep	2	Denver - Lost -10-0
Sep	9	Buffalo
Sep	16	NEW ENGLAND
Sep	23	HOUSTON
Sep	30	Dallas
Oct	7	KANSAS CITY
Oct	14	PITTSBURGH
Oct	21	Cleveland
Oct	28	PHILADELPHIA
Nov	4	Baltimore
Nov	11	SAN DIEGO
Nov	18	Houston
Nov	25	ST. LOUIS
Dec	2	Pittsburgh
Dec	9	Washington
Dec	16	CLEVELAND

OFFENSE: Dating back to their foundling days as an NFL expansion team in '68, the Bengals have tooled their offense around a run-and-gun passing attack. The sharpshooter who has set the tempo for those aerial hi-jinks the past eight years, quarterback Ken Anderson, should have another great campaign in '79 if he stays healthy.

Last season, such was not the case for Anderson, who missed the first four games with a broken hand. And it took him until late in the campaign to really round into top-form. But it was "bombs-away" on enemy defensive secondaries once he found his touch again, as Anderson unloaded for 2,219 yards and 10 touchdowns on 173 completions in 319 attempts.

Bengals	1978 Results	Opp
23	Kansas City	24
10	at Cleveland	13
3	Pittsburgh	28
18	New Orleans	20
12	at San Francisco	28
0	at Miami	21
3	New England	10
0	at Buffalo	5
28	Houston	13
13	at San Diego	22
21	Oakland	34
6	Pittsburgh	7
10	at Houston	17
37	Atlanta	7
20	at Los Angeles	19
48	Cleveland	16

Last year was not the first time Anderson was troubled by injuries, and the fact that the offensive line let him get sacked 30 times (ouch, oomph) a year ago makes his continued good health a game-to-game proposition. Anderson is a par-excellence passer and heady offensive leader, attributes which his backup, John Reaves, has not heretofore demonstrated. Filling in early in the '78 campaign, Reaves gave up seven interceptions compared to just three scoring aerials, the kind of lackluster



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showing that has been the hallmark of his pro career.

Holding up their end of the passing game is a gifted receiving corps that's one of the best in the NFL. Drawing the most attention from enemy pass defenders is Isaac Curtis, who cantered for 737 yards (15.7 average) and three touchdowns on a career-high 47 catches a year ago. His yards-per-catch average and TD receptions were down a bit from previous years, but Curtis can still go-the-distance anytime he touches the pigskin. His sidekick at wide receiver, Bobby Brooks, is not exactly a slow-poke himself, having carried 30 aerials for 506 yards in '78. The Bengals have a potential star at the tight end spot in second-year pro Don Bass, who snagged 27 passes last season and finished first in scoring grabs with four. Bass will have to block with more intensity, however, before he can be rated All-Pro.

Jim Corbett and Rick Walker, responsible for 12 catches apiece in '78, both have starting experience at tight end, so depth at that spot is more than adequate. The back-up prospects at wide receiver, Pat McInally and Dennis Law, don't seem to have the same kind of potential. McInally reeled in 15 passes and punted for a league-leading 43.1 yard average last season.

The Bengals have used every means at their disposal -- short of kidnapping Earl Campbell or Walter Payton -- to land just one truly reliable ball toter to spearhead their rushing attack. But for one reason or another, no such animal has ever emerged in Cincinnati, which is the primary reason why they finished well down on the AFC rushing charts a year ago with a meager 133.2 yards-per-game average.

A couple of Cincy's former high draft picks, Pete Johnson and Archie Griffin, ranked 1-2 in ball toting yardage in '78 with 762 and 484 yards, respectively. Both are products of Ohio State, where Griffin was a two-time Heisman Trophy winner, but neither has filled the bill of a "hoss" around whom to construct a potent overland attack.

Second-year pro David "Deacon" Turner was often impressive when he jitterbugged for 333 yards last season, and his running ability in the open-field makes him tough to bring down when he's under a full head of steam. Others in the fold are ex-regulars Boobie Clark and Lenvil Elliott.

Over the past few years, the Bengals have been re-shaping their offensive line, but they've been doing it in such an orderly fashion that the blocking continues to be a strong suit. Two "new-kids-on-the-block" are tackle Mike Wilson and center Blair Bush, who ousted a pair of long-time standouts, Rufus Mayes and Bob Johnson. Wilson wasted no time in nailing down a full-time job up front last year, his first in the NFL after a brief all-star career in the Canadian league. Pivot man Bush, selected to the '78 All-Rookie team, is a strong 255-pounder who comes off the ball quicker than Quaker Puffed Rice shot out of a cannon.

Another mainstay, Vernon Holland, is solidly entrenched at the other tackle, while sharing guard duties will be Dave Lapham, Glenn Bujnoch and Mark Donohue. Given the good combination of youth and veteran know-how up front, the blocking brigade will apply their muscle to keep the attack running smoothly. But the reserve capacity in this area, not very strong to start with, may be weakened even more if former starter Rufus Mayes, a disgruntled free agent, follows through on plans to leave the Bengals.

DEFENSE: Man-for-man, Cincinnati has the makings of a superb defensive unit that could springboard them back into title contention. However, that stout-hearted defense may never fully develop unless the injuries that undermined this unit last season are avoided. And every bit as important is that youthful blue-chippers like Ross Browner, Eddie Edwards, Wilson Whitley and Glen Cameron continue to mature.

Whitley is a 260-pound roadblock located at nose tackle in the three-man line, with Edwards joining Gary Burley as the regulars on duty at the flanks. The Bengals converted to the 3-4 defense only last season, so lack of familiarity may

Cincinnati Bengals Rookie Rooster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Thompson, Jack	QB	6-3	213	Washington St
Alexander, Charles	RB	6-0	208	Louisiana St
Ross, Dan	TE	6-3	215	Northeastern
Cotton, Barney	C-OG	6-5	250	Nebraska
White, James	DT	6-4	240	Albany (GA) St
Lusby, Vaughn	DB	5-10	171	Arkansas
Merrill, Casey	DE	6-3	250	Cal-Davis
Kreider, Steve	WR	6-1	190	Lehigh
Montoya, Max	OT	6-5	265	UCLA
Kurnick, Howie	LB	6-3	230	Cincinnati
Burk, Scott	DB	6-2	186	Oklahoma St
Poole, Nathan	RB	5-7	198	Louisville
Bungarda, Ken	DT	6-6	268	Missouri
Browner, Jim	DB	6-3	205	Notre Dame

Cincinnati Bengals 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-2	212	30	9	Augustana (IL)	12
10	Bahr, Chris	PK	5-9	170	26	4	Penn State	16
84	Bass, Don	TE	6-2	218	23	2	Houston	16
34	Breeden, Louis	CB	5-11	185	26	2	N.C. Central	16
82	Brooks, Billy	WR	6-3	202	26	4	Oklahoma	15
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	262	25	2	Notre Dame	11
74	Bujnoch, Glenn	G	6-5	258	26	4	Texas A & M	16
67	Burley, Gary	DE	6-3	265	27	4	Pittsburgh	16
58	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	254	23	2	Washington	16
50	Cameron, Glenn	LB	6-1	227	26	5	Florida	15
42	~~Clark, Boobie~~	RB	6-2	245	29	7	Bethune-Cookman	14
24	Cobb, Marvin	S	6-0	191	26	5	USC	16
81	Corbett, Jim	TE	6-3	221	24	3	Pittsburgh	16
85	Curtis, Isaac	WR	6-1	192	29	7	San Diego State	16
25	Davis, Tony	RB	5-10	212	26	4	Nebraska	14
56	Depaso, Tom	LB	6-2	222	23	2	Penn State	12
52	Dinkel, Tom	LB	6-3	246	23	2	Kansas	16
66	Donahue, Mark	G	6-3	261	23	2	Michigan	15
73	Edwards, Eddie	DT	6-4	256	25	3	Miami (FL)	16
36	Elliott, Lenvil	RB	6-0	210	28	7	NE Missouri State	10
45	Griffin, Archie	RB	5-9	193	25	4	Ohio State	16
44	Griffin, Ray	CB	5-10	186	23	2	Ohio State	15
53	Harris, Bo	LB	6-3	226	26	5	LSU	8
16	~~Hertel, Rob~~	QB	6-2	192	24	2	USC	3
76	Holland, Vernon	T	6-5	265	31	9	Tennessee State	16
30	Jauron, Dick	S	6-0	184	29	7	Yale	16
46	Johnson, Pete	RB	6-0	242	25	3	Ohio State	16
62	Lapham, Dave	G	6-4	261	27	6	Syracuse	16
83	~~Law, Dennis~~	WR	6-1	182	24	2	East Tennessee St.	14
55	LeClair, Jim	LB	6-3	238	29	8	North Dakota	16
71	~~Mayes, Rufus~~	T	6-5	262	32	11	Ohio State	9
87	McInally, Pat	P/WR	6-6	210	26	4	Harvard	16
21	Morgan, Melvin	CB	6-0	186	26	4	Mississippi Valley	15
32	Perry, Scott	S	6-0	185	25	4	Williams	13
11	~~Reaves, John~~	QB	6-3	210	29	8	Florida	9
13	Riley, Ken	CB	6-0	185	32	11	Florida A & M	16
51	Ruud, Tom	LB	6-2	223	26	5	Nebraska	7
59	Shumon, Ron	LB	6-1	225	24	2	Wichita State	13
22	Turner, Deacon	RB	5-11	212	24	2	San Diego State	16
78	Vincent, Ted	DT	6-4	262	23	2	Wichita State	16
88	~~Walker, Rick~~	TE	6-3	237	24	3	UCLA	15
75	Whitley, Wilson	DT	6-3	264	24	3	Houston	16
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-1	228	25	4	Dartmouth	16
77	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	280	24	2	Georgia	9

IN 1978 we charted 23 major phone services including the following firms with their seasonal fees in brackets [ ]:

PG [$1200]; Margin [$750]; Feist [$1000]; Score [$900]; Sports Reporter [$750]; Gary London [$600]; Danny Sheridan [$600]; etc.; etc.; etc.; . . . Only 2 out of the 23 "Great Claim Artists" managed to produce a respectable 60%: Score and Gary London. **Neither one of those two came close to the nation leading mark (75-41-65%) posted by the United Players Newsletter.**

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THE MYTH: The only way you can attain a winning % is to spend a small fortune on a phone service.

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UNITED PLAYERS NEWSLETTER 1978 RECORD VS THE SPREAD:

Games Played Week of:	Won-Lost	Units Won-Lost
Sept. 3	4 - 4	12 - 11
Sept. 10	3 - 3	8 - 8
Sept. 17	8 - 2	22 - 5
Sept. 24	5 - 4	13 - 11
Oct. 1	8 - 2	23 - 6
Oct. 8	4 - 6	10 - 18
Oct. 15	9 - 4	25 - 11
Oct. 22	7 - 3	20 - 8
Oct. 29	6 - 4	15 - 12
Nov. 5	6 - 3	17 - 8
Nov. 12	4 - 2	10 - 6
Nov. 19	4 - 2	11 - 6
Nov. 26	4 - 2	9 - 5
Dec. 3	3 - 0	7 - 0
Total:	**75-41 - 65%**	**202-115 - 64%**

Total Net Profit @ $100 per unit including the 10% VIG = $7550 for the season. Even at a $50 per unit seasonal profit would still be a very healthy $3775!!

SPECIAL NOTE: All UPN releases are rated 2*; 3*; 4* — we will never resort to the amateurish ploy of throwing 10 & 20 star releases at you simply to hype our unit W-L mark. We stress conservative play and strict money-management at all times.

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Every statement concerning UPN's 1978 won-lost record is 100% true & can easily be documented. Mr. Mike McCusker, a sports writer & author of "Sports Services: Typsters or Gypsters?,"* received an issue of UPN every week Before the games were played. Win, lose or draw, our selections are in black & white for all the world to see. The editorial offices of the Football News also received an issue of UPN every week.

Irish travel to Cleveland on Saturday for an intriguing showdown with the Middies of the Naval Academy. Just how good is Navy? Seems to be a question on the lips of many Sports Fans around the nation. They're good but not quite that good . . . Irish showing real signs of life! Montana razor sharp past few weeks . . . ND still in the hunt for a Major Bowl bid and the Scouts will be hanging from the rafters in Cleveland. Inspired Middies go down swinging . . . ND 20-6!!" FINAL: ND 27-7

"Irish travel to sunny California this week to do battle with the mighty Trojans of USC . . . both teams bound for major Bowls & a Victory here will lead to high national ranking . . . Dan Devine's team is once again playing its best ball as season winds down . . . We look for a close hard fought game . . . the points look good as USC pulls it out at the wire for a one point Victory! USC 24-23." FINAL: USC 27-25

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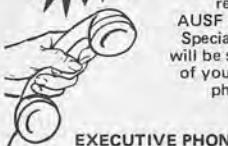

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* Sports Services: Typsters or Gypsters? Published July 1978
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well have been the culprit in the spotty play up front a year ago. At least, that's what the Cincy coaching staff fervently hopes, because after the starting trio in the pit, about all the Bengals have is a big question mark.

The linebacking corps was the area hurt most by injuries in '78, resulting in constant changes and the expected lack of cohesion as a unit. At the two middle linebacking berths are Jim LeClair, who played well a year ago despite nagging hurts, and Glenn Cameron, finally starting to pay some dividends on the No. 1 draft pick the Bengals used to acquire him in the '76 college draft.

Last year's top draftee, highly acclaimed Ross Browner, mans one outside 'backer position, or the "Rover" spot in the Bengals' scheme. While Browner is blessed with great quickness, he must learn to use his strength better to throw off enemy blockers. Steady four-year pro Reggie Williams, another who played commendably in '78 despite injuries, puts the finishing touch on one of the finest group of linebackers in the AFC. Another of last season's wounded, Bo Harris, is being counted on to return and supply needed depth.

The Bengals lost not one, but two All-Pro defensive backs a year ago when strong safety Tommy Casanova and cornerback Lemar Parrish went their separate ways, making the performance of the secondary, which limited enemy passers to 139.2 yards-per-game and a 49.7% completion ratio, that much more impressive.

One Bengal defensive back who needs little introduction is cornerback Ken Riley, many times a Pro Bowl selection and among the premier corners in the NFL. Standing his ground at the other cornerback spot is Louis Breeden, an injury casualty in '77 who bounced back last year to fight his way into the starting rotation. The Bengals are three-deep at the safeties, with Scott Perry and ex-Detroit Lion Dick Jauron sharing the weak side, and Marvin Cobb at strong safety. Jauron led Cincinnati in pass thefts last season with four, but it was Perry who made the gaudiest impression in that department by running two of his three interceptions all the way back to paydirt.

Earlier, we mentioned the league-leading punting of Pat McInally last season, but what of the placement kicking of Chris Bahr? Well, when you get right down to the nitty-gritty, Bahr has been consistent in only one respect since coming to Cincinnati as a high draft pick in '76 -- that is, he's been consistently inconsistent as a clutch kicker.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Some people couldn't wait to tell us how much off the mark we were in last year's preseason forecast of the Bengals, whom we picked to annex the AFC Central Title. Troubled by internal bickering, an endless series of injuries on both offense and defense, and a mid-year coaching switch, it's no wonder the Bengals never really got their act together until the '78 campaign was in its final stages. The critics who took us to task for picking Cincy so high never mentioned any of the adverse circumstances we just cited -- a convenient lapse of memory, wouldn't you agree? Well, damm the critics and full speed ahead, because we're once again predicting big things for the Bengals. Just how successful they will be depends on several factors. The first one is the defensive unit, which we think will improve now that the members have gotten used to playing the 3-4 alignment. But of paramount importance, defensively, is avoiding the injury bug, especially at linebacker and in the secondary. The second "key" to a resurgence by the Bengals is keeping enemy pass rushers from even mussing up QB Ken Anderson's hair when he's back in the pocket. That should insure the offense will be running on pure jet fuel when they take to the air lanes, and that's enough of an advantage to help the Cincinnati ball toters supply a decent enough ground attack to give the offense balance. They way we see it, and we don't care what happened last year, the Bengals will meet most of those conditions and rebound with a vengence this time out. No, we're not calling the Bengals a title favorite in the AFC Central. Heaven knows, it might take an all-star team made up of the NFL's best players to budge the Pittsburgh Steelers off their lofty perch atop the division! But one thing we feel very optimistic about: if Cincinnati plays as well as they did in the years immediately preceeding the "Great, '78 Collapse," the Bengals will make it very interesting for all their '79 foes -- including those big, bad Steelers!

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Anderson	319/173	22	2219	10
Reaves	144/74	7	790	3
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Curtis	47	737	15.7	3
A. Griffin	35	284	8.1	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jauron	4	52	13.0	1
Perry	3	59	19.2	2
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
P. Johnson	180	762	4.2	7
A. Griffin	132	484	3.7	0
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
McInally	91	3919	43.1	0
Bahr	4	108	27.0	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Bahr	0	26/29	16/30	74
P. Johnson	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	BENGALS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	271	269
NET RUSH	2131	2396
Avg Per Game	133.2	149.8
NET PASS	2741	2227
Att/Comp	470/250	396/193
Had Int	20	29
Avg Per Game	171.3	139.2
PUNTS/AVG	95/42.4	107/42.
Punts Return/Yds	59/264	58/564
Avg Per Return	4.5	9.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	58/1141	49/1100
Avg Per Return	19.7	22.4
FUMBLES/LOST	36/19	36/17
FIELD GOALS	16/30	16/23
PATS	26/29	30/34
TOTAL POINTS	252	284

Cleveland Browns

(8-8-0)

The Browns are what you might call victims of circumstance. A pretty good football team ... nay, make that a *very good* team which could probably challenge for the title if they played in, say, the NFC Central of NFC West divisions. But, alas, it is the ill fortune of the Browns to be members of the AFC Central -- along with Pittsburgh, Houston and Cincinnati. Which is sort of like putting the cute young "girl-next-door" in a beauty contest with Farrah-Fawcett Majors, Suzzane Somers and Linda (Wonder Woman) Carter.

Last season was a classic example of what we're talking about. Overall, Coach Sam Rutigliano's gridders battled to an 8-8 record, compared to a dismal 1-5 log versus their AFC Central rivals -- the difference between a so-so year and a really good one for the Browns.

What does the coming NFL campaign hold in store for Coach Rutigliano's hard-working team? Probably an instant re-play of last season, with the Browns winning somewhere near the same number of games overall. You see, unless Cleveland can find some way to switch divisions, their "best" may not be

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	NY Jets
Sep	9	Kansas City
Sep	16	BALTIMORE
Sep	24	DALLAS
Sep	30	Houston
Oct	7	PITTSBURGH
Oct	14	WASHINGTON
Oct	21	CINCINNATI
Oct	28	St. Louis
Nov	4	Philadelphia
Nov	11	SEATTLE
Nov	18	MIAMI
Nov	25	Pittsburgh
Dec	2	HOUSTON
Dec	9	Oakland
Dec	16	Cincinnati

Browns	1978 Results	Opp
24	San Francisco	7
13	Cincinnati	10
24	at Atlanta	16
9	at Pittsburgh	15
13	Houston	16
24	at New Orleans	16
14	Pittsburgh	34
3	at Kansas City	17
41	Buffalo	20
10	at Houston	14
7	Denver	19
45	at Baltimore	24
30	Los Angeles	19
24	at Seattle	47
17	NY Jets	34
16	at Cincinnati	48

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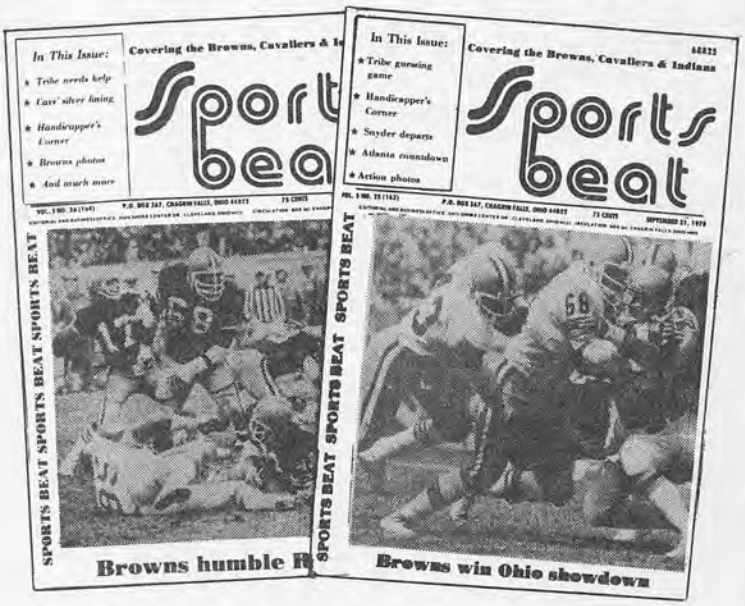

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good enough to keep them from finishing third -- or even last -- in the AFC Central standings.

OFFENSE: Trying their darndest to shoot holes in that forecast will be a balanced and explosive offensive unit, run by quarterback Brian Sipe, a "class" signal caller whose only handicap is that he plays outside the major media centers. In other words, if this underrated standout played in someplace like New York or Los Angeles, he would probably land some of those TV shaving cream commercials if he stayed healthy.

We mention the part about Sipe's "health" because two years ago a shoulder separation knocked him out of action, and for all intent and purpose, the Browns' offense died at about the same time. Last season, a hale-and-hearty Sipe passed for 2,906 yards (222-399) and 21 TDs, but what doesn't show up on the stat charts is his contribution as a polished leader who keeps the attack together.

With Sipe at the throttle, Cleveland fans can look forward to offensive fireworks a-plenty. Should he sustain any kind of serious injury, however, the fuse will be pulled on that fireworks display. Standing by at quarterback are Mark Miller and Johnny Evans, second-year pros with one thing in common -- very little experience. Miller was the most active last season, hitting on 13 of 39 aerials, while Evans saw action primarily as the team's punter, averaging 39.1 yards on 37 boots.

Pre-eminent among the pass catchers is wide receiver Reggie Rucker, who enjoyed another banner campaign in '78 when he motored for 893 yards (20.8 per catch) and eight touchdowns on 43 grabs. Rucker's quickness and experience make him the perfect complement for Dave Logan, the regular at the other wideout. A year ago, the 6-4 Logan outleaped enemy defenders for 25 catches, which he parlayed into 585 yards and four scores.

Down through the years, the Browns have had a knack for finding outstanding tight ends, a tradition Ozzie Newsome will most certainly carry on. As a mere rookie in '78, Newsome reeled in 38 aerials for 598 yards, a 15.5 yard per catch average (excellent for a tight end) that testifies to his great quickness.

Cleveland Browns 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	Games IN '78
52	Ambrose, Dick	LB	6-0	235	26	5	Virginia	16
60	Babich, Bob	LB	6-2	231	32	10	Miami, Ohio	0
69	Biedermann, Leo	T	6-7	254	24	2	California	0
28	Bolton, Ron	CB	6-2	170	29	8	Norfolk State	8
62	Buehler, George	G	6-2	270	32	11	Stanford	2
12	Cockroft, Don	K	6-1	195	34	12	Adams State	16
23	Collins, Larry	RB/KR	5-11	189	24	2	Texas A&I	1
27	Darden, Thom	S	6-2	193	29	7	Michigan	16
21	Davis, Oliver	CB	6-1½	200	25	3	Tennessee State	13
54	DeLeone, Tom	C	6-2	248	29	8	Ohio State	15
73	Dieken, Doug	T	6-5	252	30	9	Illinois	16
66	Edwards, Earl	DT	6-7	256	33	11	Wichita	16
8	Evans, Johnny	P-QB	6-1	197	23	2	North Carolina St	16
83	Feacher, Ricky	WR	5-10	174	25	4	Mississippi Valley	16
55	Graf, Dave	LB	6-2½	221	26	5	Penn State	7
59	Hall, Charlie	LB	6-3½	235	31	9	Houston	16
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	6-4	227	32	10	Yale	12
86	Irons, Gerald	LB	6-2	230	32	10	Maryland-E. Shore	14
68	Jackson, Robert E.	G	6-5	250	26	5	Duke	16
56	Jackson, Robert L.	LB	6-1	230	25	2	Texas A&M	14
47	Jones, Ricky	S	6-1	202	24	3	Tuskegee	15
85	Logan, Dave	WR	6-4	216	25	4	Colorado	16
40	London, Tom	CB	6-1	197	25	2	North Carolina St	15
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	230	23	2	Southern Cal	15
30	Miller, Cleo	FB	5-11	214	27	6	Arkansas AM&N	15
15	Miller, Mark	QB	6-2	176	23	2	Bowling Green	8
70	Mitchell, Mack	DE	6-7½	245	27	5	Houston	14
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	225	23	2	Alabama	16
75	Novak, Ken	DT	6-7	264	25	3	Purdue	0
84	Parris, Gary	TE	6-2	226	29	7	Florida State	16
20	Peters, Tony	S	6-1½	185	26	5	Oklahoma	16
34	Pruitt, Greg	RB	5-10	190	28	7	Oklahoma	12
43	Pruitt, Mike	FB	6-0	225	25	4	Purdue	16
24	Rich, Randy	CB	5-10	181	26	3	New Mexico	9
81	Roan, Oscar	TE	6-6	214	28	5	Southern Methodist	14
33	Rucker, Reggie	WR	6-2	190	32	10	Boston U.	16
74	St. Clair, Mike	DE	6-5	245	26	4	Grambling	16
22	Scott, Clarence	CB	6-0	180	30	9	Kansas State	16
65	Sheppard, Henry	G	6-6	246	27	4	Southern Methodist	14
72	Sherk, Jerry	DT	6-4½	250	31	10	Oklahoma State	16
78	Sims, Mickey	DT	6-5	282	24	3	South Carolina St	15
17	Sipe, Brian	QB	6-1	190	30	6	San Diego State	16
79	Sullivan, Gerry	C-T	6-4	250	27	6	Illinois	16
71	Turnbow, Jesse	DT	6-7	272	23	2	Tennessee	16
89	Wright, Keith	WR/KR	5-9½	172	23	2	Memphis State	16

Gary Parris and Oscar Roan, both former regulars, provide good depth at tight end. But the back-up wide receivers, Keith Wright and Ricky Feacher, are yet to be really tested. In his first NFL campaign last year, Wright saw limited duty as a wideout, although his splendid performance as a kick returner illustrates how much potential he has -- 26.3 yard average on kickoffs, 7.8 yards on punt returns.

Another long-standing tradition where the Browns are concerned is high-quality, Grade-A certified running backs. And measuring up to that standard in every respect is Greg Pruitt, a ball-toting tornado out of Oklahoma who missed playing time with an injury in '78 yet still broke loose for 960 yards on 176 carries.

Manning the other running back spot is fast-improving Mike Pruitt, no relation to Greg, but a very good ball toter in his own right. Last season, Mike ripped through enemy defenses for 560 yards and a team-high five rushing TDs. Supplying depth are Cleo Miller, a regular until felled by injury in '78, speedy Larry Collins and the much-traveled Calvin Hill, signed on as a free agent last year -- a smart move by the Browns when you consider that Hill rushed for 289 yards and caught six scoring passes while hauling in 25 aerials for 334 yards.

There's not an All-Pro in sight on the offensive line, yet despite an outbreak of injuries in '78, the front wall provided outstanding blocking. In terms of experience, the leaders in the trench are tackle Doug Dieken (9 years) and center Tom DeLeone (7 years). Mountainous Barry Darrow (6-7, 270) occupies the other tackle spot, with the guard holes filled by Henry Sheppard and Robert E. Jackson. As we mentioned, not exactly a "big name" group up front, but what counts is that they get the job done.

Heading up the cast of line back-ups is ex-Oakland Raider George Buehler, acquired mid-way through the '78

Cleveland Browns Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Adams, Willis	WR	6-2	190	Houston
Johnson, Lawrence	DB	6-0	180	Wisconsin
Claphan, Sam	OT	6-6	265	Oklahoma
Ramey, James	DE	6-4	250	Kentucky
Miller, Matt	OT	6-6	278	Colorado
Dimler, Rich	DT	6-6	254	S'ern Cal
Burrell, Clinton	DB	6-1	185	Louisiana St
Ronan, Jim	DT	6-5	260	Minnesota
Risien, Cody	OT	6-6	262	Texas A&M
Perkov, Kent	DE	6-6	270	San Diego St
McGee, Carl	LB	6-3	225	Duke
Weathers, Curtis	TE	6-5	210	Mississippi
Smith, John	WR	6-1	185	Tennessee St
Poeschl, Randy	DE	6-7	250	Nebraska
Methvin, Dee	C	6-6	241	Tulane

campaign and a potential starter for Cleveland at guard now that he's acclimated. Also on call are Gerry Sullivan, Leo Biedermann and, back from the injured reserve ranks, Pete Pullara. That's hardly an impressive line-up once you get past Buehler, so the Browns can't afford many injuries among the trench regulars.

DEFENSE: Like their teammates in the offensive line, the players who make up Cleveland's defensive unit aren't all that well known. However, this hustling gang more than holds its own when it comes to slamming the door on enemy rushing attacks, and the defense against the pass will improve as well if one major problem is resolved.

The "major problem" is the need for a stronger pass rush by the front line, which allows enemy chuckers far too much time to get rid of the ball. It's an obvious fact that most NFL quarterbacks will pass the daylights out of any secondary in the business if they can sit back in the pocket all day like they're having Sunday brunch.

The leading quarterback sackers last season were ends Mack Mitchell with seven and Mike St. Clair with five. And their grand total of 12 sacks is about what you'd expect from *one good* pass rusher. Mitchell and St. Clair could improve in that respect, which in turn would improve the overall pass defense, but only if they start playing with greater consistency.

Inside at the tackles are Jerry Sherk and Earl Edwards, veteran war horses with over 20 years of NFL experience between them. This battle-scarred duo relies more on moxie than raw ability to hold the fort in the middle, but once again, their pass rush leaves something to be desired. Stand-bys at the tackles are Mickey Sims and Jesse Turnbow.

While the pass defense is suspect, the Browns' rushing defense is built around a rock-'em, sock-'em linebacking crew that lets very few enemy ball carriers get past them. The pacesetter at putting the "stop" on opponents is middle linebacker Dick Ambrose, in on a team-high 153 tackles last season. Yet, as good a "mike man" as he is, Ambrose may be in danger of losing his starting job to Robert L. Jackson, a former No. 1 draft pick ('77) who's just too good to keep on the bench.

Playing their own brand of search-and-destroy at the two outside 'backer spots are Charlie Hall and Gerald Irons. But once again, there's a promising youngster on hand -- Clay Matthews -- with the ability to take one of the starting jobs away from the incumbents.

At the risk of repeating ourselves, the cause of Cleveland's porous pass defense is not the play of the secondary crew. On the contrary, this group of light-fingered Louies has bailed out the defense on more than one occasion with a big interception, and the chief exponent of that fine art is free safety Thom Darden, who absconded with 10 enemy aerials last season. Joining him in the deep zones are cornerbacks Oliver Davis and Ron Bolton, along with strong safety Tony Peters, which adds up to an excellent starting cast. And there's also Clarence Scott, a former regular and 8-year pro with good experience.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Sipe	399/222	15	2906	21
M. Miller	39/13	4	212	1
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Rucker	43	893	20.8	8
Newsome	38	589	15.5	2
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Darden	10	200	20.0	0
Davis	6	65	10.8	1
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
G. Pruitt	176	960	5.5	3
M. Pruitt	135	560	4.1	5
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Evans	79	309	39.1	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Cockroft	0	37/40	19/28	94
Rucker	8	0/0	0/0	48

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	BROWNS	
FIRST DOWNS	293	329
NET RUSH	2488	2149
Avg Per Game	155.5	134.3
NET PASS	2859	3203
Att/Comp	442/236	489/265
Had Int	21	27
Avg Per Game	178.8	200.2
PUNTS/AVG	79/39.1	82/38.4
Punts Return/Yds	39/317	41/366
Avg Per Return	8.1	8.9
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	72/1697	72/1469
Avg Per Return	23.6	20.4
FUMBLES/LOST	50/29	35/18
FIELD GOALS	19/28	22/29
PATS	37/40	36/41
TOTAL POINTS	334	356

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: We have to admit it. The pro football analysts here at GAMEPLAN MAGAZINES, award winners in the past for our accurate forecasts, actually weren't very impressed with this year's Browns. At least not until we sat down, poured some coffee, and started to really scrutinize Sam Rutigliano's "unknown" gridders. A fine young football team, we quickly realized, that received diddly-spit in the way of publicity last year despite a fairly decent performance. The bottom line on all this is simply that Cleveland usually gets overlooked in the Central Division of The AFC. Which is a shame, because with a few exceptions, the Browns have the overall strength to be a title contender. The offense is well-heeled at all the skill positions, and there's a proven field general in Brian Sipe to set the whole shebang in motion. In the offensive line, there's room for improvement among the regulars, but just keeping the regulars off the injured list should help. The defensive line is in about the same shape, serviceable but not great, while the linebacking corps and secondary crew were first-rate all the way. The Achilles Heel, the dark cloud on the horizon, the major shortcoming of the Browns, is precious little in the way of dependable reserves on both units. And in a game like pro football, where injuries are the mext most common thing to bad officiating calls, that often spells the difference between success and failure. Barring any sort of injury siege, the Browns look capable of matching last year's won-lost mark, which is nothing to sneeze at in any league. However, with both Pittsburgh and Houston as strong as ever, and the Cincinnati team snarling again like the Bengals of old, the Browns will probably bring up the rear in the AFC Central.

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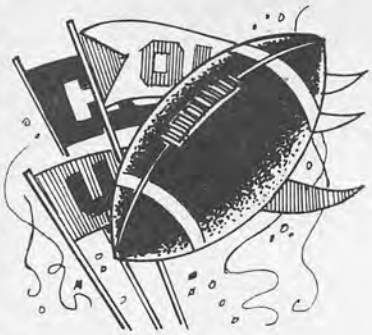

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GPP

AFC WEST

Clarence Davis, Oakland Raiders

Denver Broncos

(10-6-0)

Ah, ye of little faith! The non-believers who though Coach Red Miller's team was a mere "flash-in-the-pan" two years ago when they advanced all the way to the Super Bowl. Those skeptics who had to eat large portions of crow last season, when the Broncos battled to their second straight AFC West title before falling to the red-hot Pittsburgh Steelers (33-10) in a first-round playoff match. How does it feel to have missed the boat? Just ask us, we know only too well!

Underestimating the "for real" Broncos is not a mistake many folks are likely to make this year, because the Mile High City gridders have the hosses to win a third consecutive divisional title. But, we have to agree with the words of Coach Miller, who comments: "We have to work our tails off to stay on top, as I believe the AFC West has returned to its position of being the strongest division in the NFL."

The key to continued success for the '79 Broncos is a more consistent offensive attack. No matter how good they may be, Denver's "Orange Crush" defensive unit has to have some help. Undoubtedly, the "key" to fielding a solid offense this season is keeping quarterback Craig Morton and the entire offensive line healthy.

OFFENSE: When he's right, Morton is a polished pro signal caller with a flair for coming up with the big play. Last season, once he got untracked after a slow start, Morton came on to pass for 1,802 yards (146-267 completions) and 11 TDs, while giving up a minisucle eight interceptions. Embarking on his 16th pro campaign, Morton's only real handicap is his lack of mobility in the face of a strong pass rush, resulting last year in his being sacked 36 times -- which also tells you why he's injured so frequently.

Very much in line for the starting assignment should Morton falter or be injured is Norris Weese, who set a Denver team record in '78 for pass completion percentage (63.2%) by hitting on 55 of 87 tosses for 723 yards. There's also No. 3 QB Craig Penrose, probably the best pure passer on the team -- although his '78 statistics (16 of 37, 43.2%) don't bear that out.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	CINCINNATI
Sep	6	LOS ANGELES
Sep	16	Atlanta
Sep	23	SEATTLE
Sep	30	Oakland
Oct	7	SAN DIEGO
Oct	14	Kansas City
Oct	22	Pittsburgh
Oct	28	KANSAS CITY
Nov	4	NEW ORLEANS
Nov	11	NEW ENGLAND
Nov	18	San Francisco
Nov	25	OAKLAND
Dec	2	Buffalo
Dec	8	Seattle
Dec	17	San Diego

Broncos	1978 Results	Opp
14	Oakland	6
9	at Minnesota	12
27	San Diego	14
23	at Kansas City	17
28	Seattle	7
0	at San Diego	23
16	Chicago	7
6	at Baltimore	7
20	at Seattle	17
28	N.Y. Jets	31
19	at Cleveland	6
16	Green Bay	3
14	at Detroit	17
21	at Oakland	6
24	Kansas City	3
17	Pittsburgh	21

The Broncos are loaded with top-notch pass receivers, but the "main man" is All-Pro tight end Riley Odoms, who thundered for 829 yards and six TDs on a team-high 54 catches last season. Odoms is a rugged veteran unafraid of running those "headache routes" across the middle, and his crushing blocks have laid low many an enemy defender. Bob Moore, formerly with the Oakland Raiders and Tampa Bay Bucs, is the most seasoned reserve at tight end, but the Broncos hope to see more of Ron Egloff, sidelined half of last season due to injury.

The wide receiving corps is headlined by Haven Moses, who averaged a jazzy 20.2 yards and scored five times last year on 37 receptions. Jack Dolbin, a speedy receiver and fearless blocker, starts at the other wideout after snagging 24 aerials in '78.

When either of the WRs needs a breather, first to get the call is Rich Upchurch, only so-so as a pass catcher (17 for 210 yards last season), but what a kick returner he is! In '78, despite missing four games with an injury, Upchurch finished No. 1 in the NFL at running back punts with an impressive 13.7 yard average, including a 75-yard touchdown return.

Again this year, the Broncos will show a diversified look in their rushing attack, with six different backs rotating on a regular basis. Those sharing duties at the fullback spot are Lonnie Perrin, Jon Keyworth and Larry Canada, an impressive trio of line busters. A year ago, Perrin belted for a team-high 455 yards, with Keyworth close behind at 444, while Canada tacked on another 365 yards and led the ball toters with a 4.6 rushing average.

At the other running back slot, alternating once more will be Otis Armstrong, Rob Lytle and Dave Preston, who rushed for an aggregate 1,018 yards in '78. Another prospective ball toter with good promise is ex-Dallas Cowboy Jim Jensen, back in harness after missing all of last year because of an injury.

As we mentioned earlier, injuries struck early and often in the offensive interior line last year, preventing this unit from ever developing any real cohesion. As a result, the '78 offense was hindered at times by spotty blocking up front, a shortcoming that will be rectified if the members of the blocking corps spend more time on the playing field and less in the infirmary.

Snapping the ball is Bill Bryan, who took the starting job away from long-time stalwart Bobby Maples in '78 and played well when he wasn't bothered by injuries. Maples has since retired, leaving no depth to speak of a the critical pivot spot, so Bryan has to stay healthy. Paul Howard and Tom Glassic, both of whom missed time last year with ailments, occupy the guard positions, with Claudie Minor and Tom Neville outside at the tackles.

Two players with starting potential, guard Steve Schindler and guard/tackle Glenn Hyde, are the primary reserves up front. Hyde was tried at guard for the first time last season when injuries

Denver Broncos Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Clark, Kelvin	OT	6-4	260	Nebraska
Radford, Bruce	DE	6-5	250	Grambling
Jefferson, Charles	DB	6-1	180	McNeese
Leach, Rick	QB	6-1	180	Michigan
McIntyre, Jeff	LB	6-2	200	Arizona St
Prestridge, Luke	P	6-0	185	Baylor
Taylor, Charlie	WR	6-3	190	Rice
Dixon, Zachary	RB	6-1	200	Temple
Jacobs, Dave	K	5-7	141	Syracuse

struck, and he'll put up a good fight before he relinquishes starting honors.

DEFENSE: Speaking of "honors", the members of Denver's defensive unit won plenty of them last year. For instance, having five players selected to the Pro Bowl. Overall in '78, the "Orange Crush" led the NFL in fewest touchdowns (21) and first downs (106) allowed, while also ranking among the best in numerous other defensive categories. And for opponents, the bad news starts right up front in the three-man front wall, pivoted by nose tackle Rubin Carter.

Last season, Carter used his exceptional combination of strength and quickness to log 83 solo tackles and 59 assists, finishing second on the team with 6½ quarterback sacks. Providing excellent depth at nose tackle is Don Latimer, who played so well as a rookie last fall that the Broncos are toying with idea of switchiang to a 4-3 defense, with Latimer and Carter filling the two tackle holes.

Scaring the hell out of enemy passers when they thunder in from the line flanks are Lyle Alzado and Barney Chavous. Last season, Alzado (9) and Chavous (4) notched 13 QB sacks and were credited with about twice that many hurried passes. Backstopping them at the end positions are John Grant and Brison Manor, both of whom have good experience since the Broncos usually play their alternates in the defensive line about every third series of downs, thereby always insuring the presence of fresh troops on the field.

Any mention of the linebacking corps has to start with Randy Gradishar, who mans one of the inside spots in the 3-4 setup. On his way to earning Defensive-Player-of-the-Year honors in '78, Gradishar recorded 286 total tackles, intercepted four passes and recovered two fumbles, one of which he ran back 30-yards for a touchdown. His sidekick on the inside is Joe Rizzo, who notched three pass thefts himself last season, while backstopping them is Godwin Turk, a tough veteran who also serves as Special Teams captain.

Filling the two outside 'backer-posts are Tom Jackson and Bob Swenson, yet another pair of excellent defenders. They are supported by Larry Evans and Rob Nairne, top reserves on the outside in '78, while also in the running is free agent signee Ken Moore, who played last season with the Atlanta Falcons.

Rounding out a superb overall defense is the secondary crew, without question one of the best gang of ball-hawks in the NFL. Manning the cornerback spots are Steve Foley, who intercepted six passes last season, and All-Pro Louis Wright, who swiped two enemy aerials in '78. Foley also led the defense with 17 pass deflections as opponents threw to his side of the field to stay away from Wright. Not so sound is the reserve situation at the corners, with only Chris Pane and Maurice Harvey, both of limited experience, on hand.

Another Pro Bowl standout, Bill Thompson, occupies the strong safety spot, while rounding out the starting secondary is free safety Bernard Jackson. Backstopping them is veteran Charlie West, a former Detroit Lion regular with 11 years of experience.

Placekicker Jim Turner, who last year split the uprights on 31-35 PATs and 11 of 22 field goals, enters his 16th NFL campaign as the third ranking career scorer in league history. With a lifetime total of 1,368 points, Turner trails only George Blanda (2,002) and Jim Bakken (1,380). Bucky Dilts, the busiest punter in the AFC last year with a 36.4 yard average on 96 boots, handles that speciality for Denver.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: It seemed like everybody and his brother (alas, GAMEPLAN included) underestimated the Broncos last season. But not this year! Offensively, the Broncos will show a powerful and diversified attack with Morton and/or Weese at the quarterback spot -- but only if the offensive line avoids the injuries that weakened it last year. Which we think is within the realm of possibility, hence making Denver's attack troops a force to be reckoned with. The defensive unit hardly needs any introduction since this hard-hitting gang has clearly established itself as one of the NFL's

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Weese	87/55	5	723	4
Morton	267/146	8	1802	11
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Odoms	54	829	15.4	6
Moses	37	744	20.1	5
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jackon B.	6	128	21.2	0
Foley	6	84	14.0	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Perrin	108	445	4.2	4
Keyworth	112	444	4.0	3
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Dilts	96	3494	36.4	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Turner	0	31/35	11/22	64
Odoms	6	0/0	0/0	36

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	BRONCOS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	294	251
NET RUSH	2451	1979
Avg Per Game	153.2	123.7
NET PASS	2378	2469
Att/Comp	391/217	438/246
Had Int	17	31
Avg Per Game	148.6	154.3
PUNTS/AVG	96/36.4	88/39.9
Punts Return/Yds	51/582	47/226
Avg Per Return	11.4	4.8
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	42/952	52/1223
Avg Per Return	22.6	23.5
FUMBLES/LOST	28/17	28/13
FIELD GOALS	11/22	17/27
PATS	31/35	21/21
TOTAL POINTS	282	198

Denver Broncos 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
77	Alzado, Lyle	DE	6-3	250	30	9	Yankton Col.	16
24	Armstrong, Otis	RB	5-10	196	28	7	Purdue	16
64	Bryan, Bill	C	6-2	244	24	3	Duke	13
35	Canada, Larry	FB	6-2	235	24	2	Wisconsin	16
68	Carter, Rubin	DT	6-0	256	26	5	Miami (FL)	16
79	Chavous, Barney	DE	6-3	252	28	7	So. Carolina St.	16
10	Dilts, Bucky	P	5-9	183	25	3	Georgia	16
82	Dolbin, Jack	WR	5-10	180	30	5	Wake Forest	16
85	Egloff, Ron	TE	6-5	238	23	3	Wisconsin	8
56	Evans, Larry	LB	6-2	216	26	4	Mississippi Col.	16
43	Foley, Steve	CB	6-2	190	25	4	Tulane	16
62	Glassic, Tom	G	6-2	254	25	4	Virginia	11
53	Gradishar, Randy	LB	6-3	233	27	6	Ohio State	16
63	Grant, John	DT	6-3	246	29	7	So. California	16
27	Harvey, Maurice	DB	5-10	190	23	2	Ball State	16
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	28	6	Brigham Young	13
65	Hyde, Glenn	OT	6-3	250	28	4	Pittsburgh	15
29	Jackson, Bernard	DB	6-0	178	28	8	Washington St.	16
57	Jackson, Tom	LB	5-11	220	28	7	Louisville	16
30	Jensen, Jim	RB	6-3	240	25	3	Iowa	0
32	Keyworth, Jon	RB	6-3	230	28	6	Colorado	16
84	Kinney, Vince	WR	6-2	190	23	2	Maryland	8
72	Latimer, Don	DT	6-3	265	24	2	Miami (FL)	14
	Leavitt, Allan	K	6-0	180	23	2	Georgia	0
41	Lytle, Rob	RB	6-1	195	24	3	Michigan	13
66	Manor, Brison	DE	6-4	248	28	3	Arkansas	14
71	Minor, Claudie	OT	6-4	280	28	6	San Diego State	16
87	Moore, Bob	TE	6-3	225	30	9	Stanford	8
	Moore, Kenneth	LB	6-4	232	25	2	Northern Illinois	8
7	Morton, Craig	QB	6-4	210	36	15	California	14
25	Moses, Haven	WR	6-2	200	33	12	San Diego State	16
58	Nairne, Rob	LB	6-4	220	25	3	Oregon State	16
76	Neville, Tom	OT	6-4	250	36	14	Mississippi St.	16
88	Odoms, Riley	TE	6-4	230	29	8	Houston	16
23	Pane, Chris	CB	5-11	180	26	4	Chico St.	5
12	Penrose, Craig	QB	6-3	205	26	4	San Diego State	4
33	Perrin, Lonnie	RB	6-1	222	27	4	Illinois	16
46	Preston, Dave	RB	5-10	195	24	2	Bowling Green	16
56	Rizzo, Joe	LB	6-1	220	28	6	Mer. Mar. Acad.	14
67	Schindler, Steve	G	6-3	260	25	3	Boston College	14
86	Schultz, John	WR	5-10	182	26	4	Maryland	4
	Steinfort, Fred	K	5-11	188	26	3	Boston College	6
51	Swenson, Bob	LB	6-3	220	26	5	California	16
36	Thompson, Bill	S	6-1	200	32	11	Maryland State	16
55	Turk, Godwin	LB	6-3	230	28	6	Southern	16
15	Turner, Jim	K	6-2	205	38	16	Utah State	16
80	Upchurch, Rick	WR	5-10	170	27	5	Minnesota	12
14	Weese, Norris	QB	6-1	195	28	4	Mississippi	13
40	West, Charlie	SS	6-1	195	33	12	UTEP	16
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-2	195	26	5	San Jose State	16

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finest at stopping opponents either on the ground or through the air. There's a good chance the Broncos may switch to a 4-3 defensive set-up, but no matter what alignment they use, this is still a superb unit when injuries are held down. Coach Red Miller hit the nail right on the head when he commented that his team will have to give 110-percent to win the AFC West title again. The Mile High City gridders should forge out another winning record in '79, good enough perhaps to qualify them for a Wild Card playoff berth, but we think they'll fall a bit short of extending their title reign.

San Diego Chargers

(9-7-0)

It took some real foresight, back in 1959 when the San Diego Chargers came into existence, to select as the team emblem a bolt of lightning, which to this day is emblazoned on Diego's blue football helmets. Because down through the years -- first in the old AFL with John Hadl, Lance Alworth and Paul Lowe -- and nowadays with Dan Fouts, John Jefferson and Lydell Mitchell, the Chargers have often produced as much high-powered electricity as any bolt of lightning!

The man with the decidedly pleasant task of serving as head coach for the explosive Chargers is Don Coryell, who took the reins four games into last season and led San Diego to a 7-1 mark over the second half of the campaign. Coryell, most people will recall, spent some very successful years coaching at San Diego State University and with the NFL's St. Louis Cardinals, earning a well-deserved reputation as an offensive mastermind. So putting him in charge of the Chargers is akin to having an alcoholic in charge of a liquor cabinet -- you just know he'll imbibe quite liberally!

OFFENSE: The spark that detonates the offensive unit is quarterback Don Fouts, and if you think he hasn't "arrived" yet as a big leaguer, check out these '78 stats -- third in NFL passing, with 224 completions in 381 attempts, 2,999 yards and 24 TDs. So much for the (expletives deleted) critics who said Fouts would never make the grade in the NFL! Fouts, in his 7th pro year, should be around to run San Diego's offensive show for many years to come. Which is good news, since reserve QBs James Harris and Cliff Olander don't look equipped to handle the assignment. Last season, Harris played just often enough (42 of 88 pass completions, nine interceptions) to show his deficiencies, while Olander rates as an unknown commodity.

Put up the storm signals! Here comes John Jefferson and the other San Diego receivers, the second half of last year's league-leading (210.9-yards-per-game) aerial attack. Words hardly seem adequate to describe wide receiver Jefferson who, as a mere sibling of a rookie in '78, exploded onto the NFL scene with 56 catches for 1,001 yards and a league-high 13 touchdown receptions. Matched with him at the other wideout is veteran Charlie Joiner, who averaged a nifty 18.4 yards on the 33 aerials he grabbed last season.

Dependable workhorse Bob Klein, responsible for 34 receptions a year ago, mans the tight end spot, backed up by Pat Curran. In the way of reserves at the wide spots, the Chargers can look to Dwight McDonald, Larry Burton and Johnny Rodgers. However, Rodgers -- out most of '78 because of injury -- might be switched to a running back spot since Coach Coryell sees him as a potential Terry (ex-St. Louis Cardinals) Metcalf-type of player. Burton, an ex-New Orleans Saint regular, managed only five catches a year ago, but he sure did make the most of them since three went for touchdowns.

The aforementioned Lydell Mitchell bulwarks the rushing attack, having bolted for 820 yards on 214 carries in '78 despite a slow start after coming to the Chargers in a trade with Baltimore. Mitchell also set the tempo for San Diego with 56 pass receptions last season, and believe it or not, that was the fifth consecutive year (four with the Colts, plus '78 with the Chargers) that Mitchell led his respective teams in both rushing and receiving. Now that is some kind of accomplishment!

Lining up at the other running back is Don Woods, who stomped over enemy defenders for 514 yards in '78, his best performance since a 1,000-yard rookie campaign in '74. Depth is good at the ball toting spots, featuring Bo Matthews, Clarence Williams, Rickey Anderson and Hank Bauer. A year ago, Bauer was called on to carry the pigskin a total of only 85 times, yet he led the team with eight rushing TDs.

Up front, you'll find the "plow horses" who make the going so easy for the backs and keep the attack running on high-octane. The strength of the offensive line is the excellent guard play of Pro-Bowler Doug Wilkerson and ex-Minnesota Viking standout Ed White, and there's not much more you could ask for than these two battle-seasoned stalwarts.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Seattle
Sep	9	OAKLAND
Sep	16	BUFFALO
Sep	23	New England
Sep	30	SAN FRANCISCO
Oct	7	Denver
Oct	14	SEATTLE
Oct	21	Los Angeles
Oct	25	Oakland
Nov	4	Kansas City
Nov	11	Cincinnati
Nov	18	PITTSBURGH
Nov	25	KANSAS CITY
Dec	2	ATLANTA
Dec	9	New Orleans
Dec	17	DENVER

Chargers	1978 Results	Opp
24	at Seattle	20
20	Oakland	21
14	at Denver	27
3	Green Bay	24
23	at New England	28
23	Denver	0
21	Miami	28
14	at Detroit	31
27	at Oakland	23
22	Cincinnati	13
29	Kansas City	23
13	at Minnesota	7
0	at Kansas City	23
40	Chicago	7
37	Seattle	10
45	at Houston	24

San Diego Chargers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-6	235	Missouri
Thrift, Clifford	LB	6-2	230	E Cent Oklahoma
Floyd, John	WR	6-2	195	NE Louisiana
Garrett, Alvin	WR	6-2	190	Angelo State
Petruccio, Tony	DT	6-4	229	Penn State
Green, Al	DB	6-1	180	Louisiana St
Rader, Dave	QB	6-3	215	Tulsa
Duncan, Frank	DB	6-2	175	San Francisco St

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- In 1978 the Chargers were **first in the NFL** with 3,375 yards passing.
- The Chargers were **fourth in the NFL** with 5,471 yards total offense.
- The Chargers 122 points in the final three games were **the most by an NFL team** in the final three games of the season since Dallas scored 125 in 1971.
- **Quarterback Dan Fouts'** 83.2 pass rating was third to Roger Staubach's 84.9 and Terry Staubach's 84.8.
- Exciting rookie wide receiver John Jefferson's 13 touchdown receptions **tied the NFL rookie record** set by Green Bay's Billie Howton in 1952.
- Led by All Pro defensive tackle Louie Kelcher, the Chargers' defensive line collected **54 quarterbacks sacks** in '78, a club record and third highest in the NFL.

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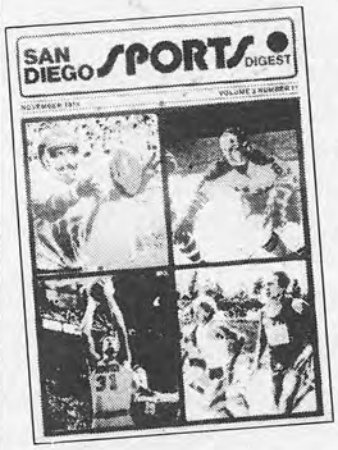

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San Diego Chargers 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN'78
43	Anderson, Rickey	RB	6-1	211	26	2	South Carolina St.	16
60	Audick, Dan	G	6-3	255	25	2	Hawaii	1
37	Bauer, Hank	RB	5-11	204	25	3	Cal Lutheran	16
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	170	24	3	Cal-Davis	15
87	Burton, Larry	WR	6-1	193	28	4	Purdue	3
61	Choma, John	G	6-5	241	24	1	Virginia	0
82	Curran, Pat	TE	6-3	235	34	11	Lakeland (WI)	14
71	Dean, Fred	DE	6-3	229	27	5	Louisiana Tech	15
73	DeJurnett, Charles	DT	6-4	261	27	4	San Jose State	15
48	Dove, Jerome	CB	6-1	187	26	3	Colorado State	14
27	Edwards, Glen	FS	6-0	184	32	9	Florida A & M	14
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	210	28	7	Oregon	15
42	Fuller, Mike	SS	5-9	179	26	5	Auburn	16
50	Goode, Don	LB	6-2	235	28	6	Kansas	14
77	Hardaway, Milton	T	6-9	309	25	2	Oklahoma State	12
12	Harris, James	QB	6-3	220	32	10	Grambling	9
55	Horn, Bob	LB	6-4	235	25	4	Oregon Stage	16
83	Jefferson, John	WR	6-1	190	23	2	Arizona State	14
79	Johnson, Gary	DT	6-2	247	26	5	Grambling	15
18	Joiner, Charlie	WR	5-11	188	32	11	Grambling	16
68	Jones, Leroy	DE	6-8	256	29	4	Norfolk State	16
74	Kelcher, Louie	DT	6-5	282	26	5	Southern Methodist	15
31	King, Keith	TE	6-4	226	24	2	Colorado State	14
84	Klein, Bob	TE	6-5	245	32	11	Southern California	16
54	Laslavic, Jim	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Penn State	16
69	Lee, John	DE	6-2	253	26	4	Nebraska	1
51	Lowe, Woodrow	LB	6-0	220	25	4	Alabama	16
62	Macek, Don	G/C	6-3	253	25	4	Boston College	14
11	Magee, Terry	P	6-0	203	25	1	Nicholls State (LA)	0
41	Mathews, Bo	FB	6-4	220	28	6	Colorado	11
88	McCrary, Greg	TE	6-2	230	27	4	Clark (GA)	8
89	McDonald, Dwight	WR	6-3	191	28	5	San Diego State	12
57	Middleton, Rick	LB	6-2	230	28	6	Ohio State	12
26	Mitchell, Lydell	RB	5-11	200	30	8	Penn State	16
10	Olander, Cliff	QB	6-5	200	25	3	New Mexico State	9
85	Owens, Artie	WR	5-10	174	26	4	West Virginia	13
53	Perretta, Ralph	C	6-2	250	26	5	Purdue	15
52	Preston, Ray	LB	6-0	220	25	4	Syracuse	16
20	Rodgers, Johnny	RB/WR	5-10	180	28	3	Nebraska	6
56	Rush, Bob	C	6-5	258	24	3	Memphis State	0
21	Shaw, Hughie	RB	6-0	187	24	1	Texas A & I	0
44	Shaw, Pete	SS	5-10	180	25	3	Northwestern	16
66	Shields, Billy	T	6-7	261	26	5	Georgia Tech	16
58	Slater, Mark	C	6-1	252	24	2	Minnesota	9
45	Stringert, Hal	CB	5-11	182	27	5	Hawaii	13
70	Washington, Russ	T	6-7	285	33	12	Missouri	16
80	West, Jeff	P/TE	6-2	212	26	5	Cincinnati	16
67	White, Ed	G	6-2	274	32	11	California	15
63	Wilkerson, Doug	G	6-3	257	32	10	North Carolina Central	16
40	Williams, Clarence	RB	5-10	198	24	3	South Carolina	10
29	Williams, Mike	CB	5-10	179	26	5	Louisiana State	16
33	Woods, Don	RB	6-2	204	28	6	New Mexico	16
99	Young, Wilbur	DE	6-7	276	30	9	William Penn	10

The rest of the starting cast is just as first-rate -- center Don Macek, tackles Russ Washington and Billy Shields. Not so "first-rate" is the depth in the interior line, in the persons of Milton Hardaway, Ralph Perretta, Mark Slater and Bob Rush, back from the '78 injured list. The 300-pound Hardaway (yes, three-hundred) has the size to be a pass blocker who could hold off King Kong -- but not until he learns the ropes.

DEFENSE: At the start of our San Diego preview, we made some glowing references to the team's offensive unit -- and all of them were justified. But we should have hastened to add that, as good as the attack troops are, they hardly overshadow their defensive counterparts. Not by a long shot!

Last season, the Chargers finished third in total defense among AFC teams, highlighted by a stingy passing defense that yielded just 146.9 yards-per-game. The tight-guarding play of the secondary crew most assuredly has a lot to do with San Diego's success at stopping enemy passers, but just as important is the "Charge Of The Light Brigade" pass rush (54 sacks in '78) administered by the defensive line.

Blasting in from the flanks are Fred Dean and Leroy Jones. Dean, a quick 240-pounder, relies for the most part on dexterity, while the 6-8, 270-pound Jones is about as subtle as a run-away freight train when he comes roaring in from the other side. Foremost of the back-ups at defensive end is Charles DeJurnett, who has started for the Chargers in the past.

Inside at the tackle spots are All-Pro Louis Kelcher and Gary Johnson, and you'd have to search far and wide to find a better young tandem in pro football. Kelcher, a 280-pounder, is best known for his ability to blockade the middle against the run. Johnson is outstanding in that respect himself, and last year, he fulfilled every down lineman's dream when he returned a pass interception 57-yards for a touchdown. Wilbur Young, former regular with the Kansas City Chiefs, and John Lee -- out last season because of injury -- supply solid depth at the tackles.

Backing up the line are middle man Bob Horn, flanked on the outside by Don Goode and Woodrow Lowe, one of the AFC's best young 'backer trios. Lowe, once thought to be too small to make the grade in the NFL, has developed into the most consistent performer among the starters at linebacker. Jim Laslavic, Ray Preston and Rick Middleton form the reserve corps, and they should be able to hold the fort should injuries strike down one or more of the regulars.

Good, and getting better, is the capsule summary of the secondary crew, led by budding All-Pro cornerback Mike Williams. Opposite him at the other corner if Jerome Dove, and enemy quarterbacks usually throw to his side of the field because Williams is so tough to make any headway against. Hal Stringert, in his fifth NFL season, supplies experienced depth at cornerback.

Another superb young ball-hawk, strong safety Mike Fuller, heads up the last line of defense. A year ago, Fuller paced the team with four pass interceptions, one of which he ran back for a touchdown, and ranked among the AFC leaders with an 11.2 yard average on punt returns. Sharing duties at the free safety spot are hard-nosed Pete Shaw and ex-Pittsburgh Steeler Glen Edwards, who teamed up for five aerial thefts in '78. Second-year pro Keith King, who backed-up at safety last year, may be switched to offensive tight end, and if so, the Chargers will have to come up with someone to fill that breach.

Place kicking specialist Rolf Benirschke parted the uprights on 37-44 PATs and 18-22 field goals last year for 91 points -- fourth best in the AFC. But way down on the '78 charts was punter, Jeff West with a 37.3 yard average, and this aspect of the kicking game needs bolstering.

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	CHARGERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	315	273
NET RUSH	2096	2208
Avg Per Game	131.0	138.0
NET PASS	3375	2351
Att/Comp	477/271	441/237
Had Int	30	22
Avg Per Game	210.9	146.9
PUNTS/AVG	75/36.3	99/38.5
Punts Return/Yds	57/590	37/356
Avg Per Return	10.4	9.6
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	58/1252	69/1457
Avg Per Return	21.6	21.1
FUMBLES/LOST	37/21	32/16
FIELD GOALS	18/22	11/22
PATS	37/44	36/40
TOTAL POINTS	355	309

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Fouts	381/224	20	2999	24
Harris	88/42	9	518	2
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Mitchell	57	500	8.8	2
Jefferson	56	1001	17.9	13
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Fuller	4	44	11.0	1
Edwards	3	43	14.3	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Mitchell	214	820	3.8	3
Woods	151	514	3.4	3
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
West	73	2720	37.3	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Benirschke	0	37/44	18/22	91
Jefferson	13	0/0	0/0	78

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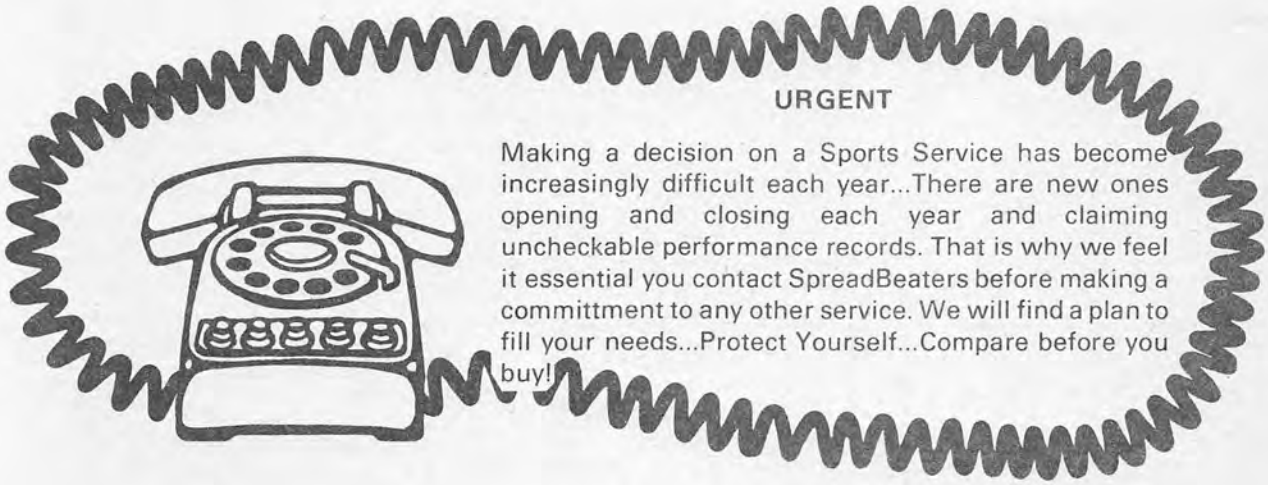

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GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: To those who follow the NFL scene closely, it didn't come as a big surprise when Don Coryell took over as San Diego's head coach following the resignation of Tommy Prothro. And it didn't surprise us, either, when the Coryell-led Chargers finished the year with a 7-1 mark down the backstretch. This season, San Diego fans can expect more of the same, since this is obviously the best Charger team in many, many moons. Offensively, the maturation of QB Fouts, coupled with the addition of standouts like ex-Colt Lydell Mitchell and gee-whiz WR Jefferson, points to a very potent and balanced attack. The offensive front wall, solid from tackle-to-tackle, will supply plenty of blocking muscle to keep the attack operating at peak efficiency. What of San Diego's defense? The front wall is very strong, bulwarked by tackles Kelcher and Johnson, and the secondary boasts good overall strength. A year ago, San Diego finished tied with Oakland and Seattle for second place in their division, all at 9-7 and just a shade behind No. 1 Denver at 10-6. We fully expect another "horse race" for the top spot in '79, with the ever-improving Chargers right in the thick of things. And you know what? We have a "feeling" that favorite son Don Coryell just may be the skipper to lead the Chargers all the way back to the top!

Beat The Point Spread
See Page 5

Oakland Raiders

(9-7-0)

Until last year, the Raiders were usually able to project the image of a football team that had no major flaws. Which explains why the 1978 performance of the Silver-and-Black, when compared to past achievements, stood out like a "zit" on Cheryl Tiegs' nose. Or a cavity in Jimmy Carter's teeth.

That '78 collapse by the Raiders, who missed the playoffs for only the second time in 12 years, prompted the resignation of head coach John Madden. And while we'll miss the "rotund one" and his buoyant ways, we think the man who replaced him -- Tom Flores -- should be just what's needed to get the talented Oakland gridders back on the right track.

New skipper Flores, who served as assistant coach under Madden in charge of receivers from 1972-78, is also a former player with the Raiders. In fact, it was none other than Flores who ran the offensive show as quarterback when Oakland first came into pro ball as an old AFL-entry back in 1960. Those who recall his playing days will remember Flores as a passer who loved to throw the "home run" ball, and the long-passing game is one element the new mentor will try hard to re-install in the Raider offense.

OFFENSE: The catapult upon which Coach Flores hopes to launch a stronger aerial attack is the limber left arm of quarterback Ken "Snake" Stabler. A year ago, "Snake" gave up a career-high 30 pass interceptions and, generally, had the kind of campaign most Oakland fans would just as soon forget.

Overall last season, Stabler completed 237 of 406 aerials (58%) for 2,944 yards and 16 TDs. But in addition to his high number of interceptions, he also was sacked an alarming 37 times. At the age of 33, the "Snake" is certainly young enough to rebound from that off performance, and Coach Flores notes: "He said he'd give 100 percent, and 100 percent of Ken Stabler is better than any quarterback in football."

Another big reason why it's so essential that Stabler come through at quarterback are the back-ups at this position: David Humm and Jim Plunkett. Last season, Humm completed 14 of 26 passes in brief appearances, and even though he's in his fifth NFL campaign, he still doesn't appear experienced enough to run the offense full-time. Plunkett, of course, is the former Heisman Trophy winner from Stanford who previously failed to cut-the-mustard with both the New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers.

As far as Oakland's "short range" passing game is concerned, prospects are excellent, due mainly to the muscular presence of tight end Dave Casper. A year ago, Casper led the Raiders with 62 receptions (second most in the AFC) which he converted into 852 yards and nine touchdowns. Backing Casper up once more is one-time All-Pro Raymond Chester, a former Raider reacquired last year in a trade with the Baltimore Colts.

The key to putting the "bomb" back in the passing attack is giving free rein to wide receivers Cliff Branch, Morris Bradshaw, Fred Biletnikoff and Joe Steward. In '78, their last year under John Madden, the Raiders forsook their long-passing game in deference to the rushing attack, but with Tom Flores taking over as head coach, you can bet the wideouts will see more action coming their way.

Last season, Branch and Bradshaw caught 49 and 40 passes, respectively, but had only three touchdown receptions between them. Former regular Biletnikoff had 20 catches, and young Steward -- while he caught nary a pass last season -- is a speedster who will soon challenge for a starting job on the outside.

The rushing attack was good, but not great, last year, netting 136.8 yards-per-game. But if gifted ball toters like Clarence Davis and Terry Robiskie stay healthy, Oakland's ground game will be balanced and explosive.

For the third consecutive year in '78, the hard-running Mark van Eeghen

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Los Angeles
Sep	9	San Diego
Sep	16	Seattle
Sep	23	Kansas City
Sep	30	DENVER
Oct	8	MIAMI
Oct	14	ATLANTA
Oct	21	NY Jets
Oct	25	SAN DIEGO
Nov	4	SAN FRANCISCO
Nov	11	Houston
Nov	18	KANSAS CITY
Nov	25	Denver
Dec	3	New Orleans
Dec	9	CLEVELAND
Dec	16	SEATTLE

Raiders	1978 Results	Opp
6	at Denver	14
21	at San Diego	20
28	at Green Bay	3
14	New England	21
25	at Chicago	19
21	Houston	17
28	Kansas City	6
7	at Seattle	27
23	San Diego	27
20	at Kansas City	10
34	at Cincinnati	21
29	Detroit	17
16	Seattle	17
6	Denver	21
6	at Miami	23
27	Minnesota	20

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Stabler	406/237	30	2944	16
Humm	26/14	1	151	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Casper	62	852	13.7	9
Branch	49	709	14.5	1
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Phillips	6	121	20.2	1
Hayes	4	86	21.5	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
VanEeghen	270	1080	4.0	9
Whittington	172	661	3.8	7
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Guy	81	3462	42.7	2
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Mann	0	33/40	12/20	69
Casper	9	0/0	0/0	60

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	RAIDERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	309	299
NET RUSH	2188	2183
Avg Per Game	136.8	136.4
NET PASS	2727	2711
Att/Comp	433/251	448/234
Had Int	31	28
Avg Per Game	170.4	169.4
PUNTS/AVG	83/41.7	90/39.5
Punts Return/Yds	47/310	38/309
Avg Per Return	6.6	8.1
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	60/1233	51/992
Avg Per Return	20.6	19.5
FUMBLES/LOST	27/12	29/15
FIELD GOALS	12/20	14/17
PATS	33/40	31/35
TOTAL POINTS	311	283

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shattered the 1,000-yard plateau, belting out 1,080 yards and nine touchdowns on 270 carries. Davis is a superb outside runner, and will be the perfect complement to van Eeghen's inside power, provided he's healthy again after missing the brunt of last season due to injury.

His place was taken by exciting Arthur Whittington, who sliced through enemy defenses for 661 yards and seven TDs as a rookie last fall. While an explosive runner, Whittington isn't big enough to stand up to the pounding full-time. The previously mentioned Terry Robiskie has starting potential, but only if he avoids injuries. And certainly not to be overlooked is Pete Banaszak, in his 14th year with the Raiders and still the kind of hard-nosed ball toter any coach would love to have down around the goal line.

The offensive interior line was partially to blame for last year's weaker passing attack because the boys up front didn't block with their usual authority. But that shouldn't come as a big surprise when you recall that two former All-Pros, guard George Buehler (traded to Cleveland) and tackle John Vella (injured) were missing from the regular rotation.

Vella should rebound and take back his old tackle berth opposite Art Shell, once again relegating Henry Lawrence to back-up status along with second-year pro Lindsey Manor. Making up the rest of the starting crew are center Dave Dalby, along with guards Gene Upshaw and Mickey Marvin, rounding out a solid cast of regulars. But reserve strength in the front wall -- Lawrence, Manor and Steve Sylvester -- isn't much to shout about when you consider the ages of starters like Upshaw (34) and Shell (33).

DEFENSE: There are subtle -- but noticeable -- signs that advancing age is beginning to take its toll in some areas of the stop troops. But Oakland's astute GM Al Davis, the real "power" behind this club, has added some standout young defensive prospects via the college draft the past few years, so the future looks bright if they continue to improve and stay healthy.

In the line, which will probably stick with a three-man look out of necessity more than anything else, Otis Sistrunk is at nose guard, John Matuszak and Charles Philyaw at the end spots. Sistrunk, more suited to being a flankman, was forced to move in at NG when ex-Green Bay Packer Mike McCoy flopped last season. Moving Sistrunk back outside where he belongs means the Raiders must find the "X-factor" they need in the middle of the trench. And that may prove to be no easy task.

At the end spots, Matuszak and Philyaw won't be able to rest on their laurels, because quite frankly, last year they didn't earn many. Pat Toomay supplies seasoned depth at the terminals, and, as previously mentioned, Sistrunk could re-claim starting status outside if a genuine middle guard is found. The man who may be what the doctor ordered up the pipe is Dave Browning, Oakland's top pick in the '78 college draft, but an injury casualty last year.

The four-man linebacking corps is led by Ted Hendricks and Phil Villapiano on

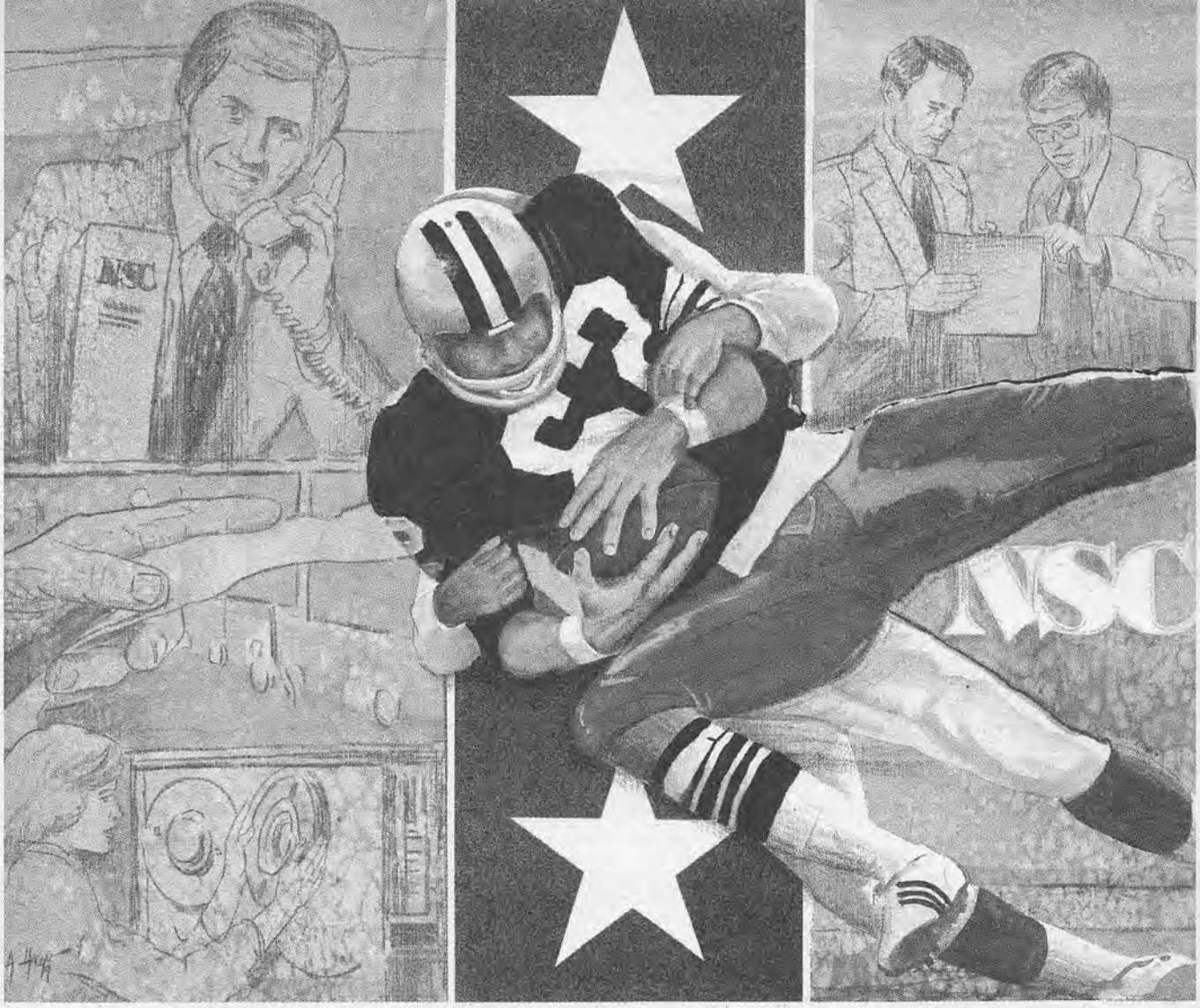
Oakland Raiders Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Jones, Willie	LB	6-3	230	Florida St
Matthews, Ira	KR	5-10	175	Wisconsin
Williams, Henry	DB	5-10	195	San Diego St
Matia, Jack	OT	6-7	285	Drake
Rourke, Jim	OT	6-5	250	Boston Col
Smith, Ricky	DB	6-4	190	Tulane
Davis, Bruce	OT	6-6	256	UCLA
Abernathy, Dirk	DB	6-2	200	Bowling Green
Kinlaw, Reggie	DT	6-2	240	Oklahoma

Oakland Raiders 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
40	Banaszak, Pete	RB	6-0	210	14	35	Miami	16
46	Bankston, Warren	TE	6-4	235	11	32	Tulane	8
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	215	3	24	California	16
25	Biletnikoff, Fred	WR	6-1	190	15	36	Florida State	16
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-1	195	6	27	Ohio State	16
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	8	31	Colorado	16
24	Brown, Willie	CB	6-1	210	17	39	Grambling	13
73	Browning, Dave	DE	6-5	245	2	23	Washington	12
82	Brunson, Larry	WR	5-11	180	5	30	Colorado	2
87	Casper, Dave	TE	6-4	230	6	27	Notre Dame	16
88	Chester, Raymond	TE	6-4	235	10	31	Morgan State	16
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	8	29	UCLA	16
28	Davis, Clarence	RB	5-10	195	8	30	Southern California	2
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-2	200	2	23	Colorado	16
29	Ginn, Hubie	RB	5-9	185	9	32	Florida A&M	1
8	Guy, Ray	K	6-3	190	7	30	Southern Mississippi	16
39	Hall, Willie	LB	6-2	225	7	30	Southern California	11
23	Hart, Harold	RB	6-0	205	5	26	Texas Southern	7
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	195	3	24	Texas A&M	16
10	Hedberg, Randy	QB	6-3	200	2	25	Minot State	0
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	220	11	32	Miami	16
57	Huddleston, John	LB	6-3	230	2	25	Utah	11
11	Humm, David	QB	6-2	190	5	27	Nebraska	16
42	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	185	5	26	San Diego State	16
58	Johnson, Monte	LB	6-5	240	7	28	Nebraska	14
	Kimbrough, John	WR	5-10	170	2	25	St. Cloud State	0
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	6	28	Florida A&M	16
14	Mann, Errol	K	6-0	205	12	38	North Dakota	16
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	210	3	25	Southern California	15
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	3	24	Tennessee	14
71	Mason, Lindsey	T	6-5	260	2	24	Kansas	16
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	275	7	29	Tampa	16
76	McCoy, Mike	DT	6-5	275	10	31	Notre Dame	15
55	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	230	5	26	Nebraska	0
	Payne, Ken	WR	6-2	185	6	29	Langston	16
47	Phillips, Charles	S	6-2	215	5	27	Southern California	16
77	Philyaw, Charles	DE	6-9	280	4	25	Texas Southern	15
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	205	9	32	Stanford	0
84	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	220	2	23	Kentucky	16
35	Robiskie, Terry	RB	6-1	205	3	25	Louisiana State	7
34	Russell, Booker	RB	6-2	230	2	23	Southwest Texas	16
	Scarber, Sam	RB	6-2	232	3	31	New Mexico	0
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	275	12	33	Maryland-Eastern Shore	
60	Sistrunk, Otis	DT	6-4	270	8	32	No College	16
12	Stabler, Ken	QB	6-3	210	10	34	Alabama	16
80	Stewart, Joe	WR	5-11	180	2	24	Missouri	16
66	Sylvester, Steve	C-G	6-4	260	5	26	Notre Dame	16
32	Tatum, Jack	S	5-11	205	8	31	Ohio State	15
26	Thomas, Skip	CB	6-1	205	7	29	Southern California	0
67	Toomay, Pat	DE	6-6	245	10	31	Vanderbilt	16
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	13	34	Texas A&I	16
30	van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	255	6	27	Colgate	16
75	Vella, John	T	6-4	260	8	29	Southern California	0
41	Villapiano, Phil	LB	6-2	225	9	30	Bowling Green	16
52	Westbrooks, Greg	LB	6-3	215	5	26	Colorado	11
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB	5-11	180	2	24	Southern Methodist	16



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the outside, with Monte Johnson and Rod Martin protecting the inside. Willie Hall, returning from the '78 injured list, is sure to challenge for his old starting job, which could push Martin into the back-up ranks again, where he would be joined by Bob Watts, John Huddleston and Jeff Barnes.

The secondary crew got some "heat" last season, when opponents riddled them for 169.4 aerial yards-per-game and 17 TDs. But this is not a bad gang of ball-hawks, not by any stretch of the imagination. If all the members of the deep crew stay healthy, enemy passers will find yardage and points a lot harder to come by this season.

Protecting the coners are Lester Hayes and ex-LA Ram Monte Jackson, who combined for six pass interceptions last fall. Providing support for them is former regular and many times All-Pro Willie Brown, but the Raiders traded multi-talented Neil Colzie to the Miami Dolphins, so you can be sure Oakland will be looking for another cornerback prospect.

At strong safety is Charles Phillips, who had himself quite a year in '78 with six pass interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown, and two fumble recoveries that he also ran back for TDs. Hardly a slouch is his sidekick at free safety, Jack Tatum, a perennial Pro Bowl selection who ranks with the finest DBs in pro football. Third-year pro Mike Davis, about ripe to push for starting duty, provides quality depth at safety.

With respect to the kicking game, the punting duties are in the good hands (and strong foot) of Ray Guy, second in the NFL last year with a 42.7 yard average on 81 kicks. Not so fail-safe is the status of placekicker Errol Mann, only 33 of 40 PATs and 12 of 20 on field goals in '78, the kind of performance that doesn't exactly inspire confidence.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The Raiders tarnished their image as the "flawless team" last season, but make no mistake -- this is still one of the best clubs the NFL has to offer. Offensively Flores expects to open up with a more explosive passing attack, and he sure has the ingredients with Stabler pitching to the likes of Branch, Bradshaw and Casper. The running game will be made extensive use of as well, and given the quality of the ball toters, the offense should enjoy fine balance. But an awful lot hinges on the play of the offensive interior line, still a first-rate blocking crew but starting to show a little wear-and-tear around the edges. That old bagaboo called "advancing age" is also starting to show on the defensive side of the ledger, although we don't anticipate any overnight collapse by this hard-hitting gang. The area most in need of repair is the front wall, which just hasn't adjusted very well to the three-man look. Otherwise, the "D" will stack up solid, provided everyone stays healthy since reserve strength is not that impressive. The first year of the Tom Flores era as head coach should result in another winning record, and the Raiders are sure to make their annual run for the top spot in the AFC West. But we just have a nagging feeling that this team is going through something of a metamorphosis, as the "new guard" takes over for the "old guard" -- and this situation may very well prevent Oakland from grabbing another brass ring.

Seattle Seahawks

(9-7-0)

When you recall that the Seahawks have only been around the NFL since 1976, it seems like a miracle that Coach Jack Patera's gridders almost walked off with the AFC West title last season -- in just their third year of existence! "We've laid a foundation we've been able to build on," Coach Patera explains, "and I don't see us slipping any this season."

The skipper has good reason for optimism, too, because his '79 Seahawks look capable of soaring to even bigger and better things. But only if, and this is the bottom line, Seattle's defensive unit continues to progress and improve as rapidly as their offensive counterparts have in the short span since the team joined the NFL.

Not that other members of the offensive unit haven't done their share, but the one individual most responsible for Seattle's potent attack is quarterback Jim Zorn, the most exciting signal caller in the league. Zorn has run the offensive show for the Seahawks ever since the inception of the team, and his steady development has gone hand-in-hand with the rapid progress of the strike force.

OFFENSE: A year ago, Zorn made some All-Pro teams after passing for 15 touchdowns and 3,283 yards on 248 of 443 aerial attempts. Zorn started his pro career as a free agent signee ('75) with the Dallas Cowboys, and he's one of the NFL's finest quarterbacks as he embarks on his fifth season. He's also a superb scrambler who averaged 4.9 yards a carry and rushed for six TDs in '78.

In reserve at quarterback are Steve Myer and Sam Adkins, both of whom saw limited duty in '78. Myer is a tough competitor who hit on 11 of 22 passes last season, and while his experience at the signal calling spot isn't that extensive, he'd be the first to get the call should Zorn need relief.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	SAN DIEGO
Sep	9	Miami
Sep	16	OAKLAND
Sep	23	Denver
Sep	30	KANSAS CITY
Oct	7	San Francisco
Oct	14	San Diego
Oct	21	HOUSTON
Oct	29	Atlanta
Nov	4	LOS ANGELES
Nov	11	Cleveland
Nov	18	NEW ORLEANS
Nov	26	NY JETS
Dec	2	Kansas City
Dec	8	DENVER
Dec	16	Oakland

The pass receiving corps revolves around the catch-and-run ability of wideout Steve Largent, tops in the American Conference last year with 71 catches for 1,168 yards and eight touchdowns. That was the third consecutive year Largent paced the Seahawks in pass receptions, and his fine performance in '78 culminated in his selection to the Pro Bowl.

Running deep patterns out of the other wide receiving spot is veteran Sam McCullum, who carried 37 aerials for 525 yards and three TDs in '78. Quality depth at the wideouts is provided by Steve Raible, who latched onto 22 tosses last season, and Duke Fergerson, who had 11 catches of his own.

Seahawks	1978 Results	Opp
20	San Diego	24
10	at Pittsburgh	21
24	at N.Y. Jets	17
28	Detroit	16
7	at Denver	28
29	Minnesota	28
28	at Green Bay	45
27	Oakland	7
17	Denver	20
31	at Chicago	29
14	Baltimore	17
13	at Kansas City	10
17	at Oakland	16
47	Cleveland	24
10	at San Diego	37
23	Kansas City	19

While the wide receiving corps boasts talent and depth, the Seahawks really need to solidify the tight end spot. Last season, John Sawyer and Ron Howard shared duties at that position, teaming up for 27 pass receptions. Howard is a strong blocker with good hands who, if he can only avoid getting hurt, could be the answer at this position.

Giving the offense good pass-run balance is a strong corps of ball carriers, led by the lethal 1-2 punch of Sherman Smith and David Sims. A year ago, Smith blasted for 805 yards and six TDs, but every bit as impressive was sidekick Sims, who led the entire NFL in rushing touchdowns (14) and rambled for 752 yards despite missing time due to injury.

Foremost of the reserve ball toters is speedster Al Hunter, who replaced the injured Sims in last year's final game against Kansas City and exploded for 133 yards on 27 sorties. Also on call are Don

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Testerman, Tony Benjamin and Rufus Crawford, the latter a dangerous kick returner who averaged 8.4 yards on punt returns and 23.7 yards on kickoff runbacks in '78.

It goes without saying that no offense can succeed without strong blocking up front, and the Seahawks are no exception to that rule. Seattle's offensive interior line is almost a perfect mixture of veterans and youngsters, with the latter group led by guard Tom Lynch, tackle Steve August and center John Yarno. Those three young bulls start in the front wall along with "elder statesmen" Nick Bebout at tackle and guard Bob Newton.

Heading the reserve cast is former tackle regular Norm Evans and center Art Kuehn, both of whom started games in '78, along with tackle Louis Bullard and guard Charlie Aiu. One of the guard regulars, most likely Bob Newton, faces a very serious challenge with the return of Ron Coder, a "77 starter sidelined last year because of an injury.

DEFENSE: Like we said at the top, if the Seahawks want to annex their first divisional title, the defensive unit must continue the improvement that marked their play at the end of last season. Which we think Seattle's stop troops are very capable of doing, provided this unit develops the cohesiveness so important for a strong defense.

Crashing in from the line flanks to make life miserable for enemy passers are Bill Gregory, top sacker in '78 with nine, and Ernie Price, who put the crunch on four more. Both Gregory (ex-Dallas Cowboy) and Price (ex-Detroit Lion) were acquired in '78 trades, and their presence up front had a lot to do with the overall improvement in defensive line play. Matched with them are tackles Dennis Boyd and Bill Sandifer, which gives the starting foursome a look of real stability.

Exactly the opposite is the reserve situation in the front wall, where the only backup of any real consequence is Steve Niehaus. Niehaus, slowly rounding back into form following a '77 knee injury, has the ability to fill in at either tackle or end -- in fact, he could challenge for starting rights if he's his old ferocious self again. But after Niehaus, reserve strength in the defensive line is skimpier than the bill-of-fare at a Weight Watchers clinic.

The linebacking corps is young and improving, just the kind of thing needed for a rock-ribbed defense. In the middle is Terry Beeson, leading tackler on the team the past two years, while belting enemy ball toters from the outside spots are Sammy Green and Keith Butler. Providing solid depth on the outside are former starter Ken Geddes and Charles McShane, with Pete Cronan on call in the middle.

In the secondary, the Seahawks also have a relatively young starting crew, but don't let that throw you. Because this hard-hitting gang is capable of superb pass defense when the front wall applies adequate pressure on enemy throwers. Heady six-year veteran Dave Brown and Cornell Webster, top intercepter with five last season, protect the corners. But breathing down their necks again will be Keith Simpson, a No. 1 draft pick in '78 who showed his potential as a rookie when he ran an intercepted pass back 40-yards for a touchdown.

The safety spots are filled by strong-sider Autry Beamon and free-lancer John Harris. Each had four pass thefts in '78. Harris is a big-play artist who made last year's all-rookie team after coming to the Seahawks as an unheralded seventh round pick in the college draft.

Taking care of the placekicking duties is ex-Dallas Cowboy Efren Herrera, who amassed 79 points last season on 40 of 44 extra point conversions and 13 of 21 field goals. Herrera kicked game-winning field goals in '78 against Minnesota (29-28) and Oakland (17-16, second meeting). Punting duties are the responsibility of Herman Weaver (37.0-yard average in '78), although trying to take that job away from him will be Mike Deutsch and Gavin Hedrick.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The beat goes on in Seattle, where Coach Jack Patera and his aides are putting together a first-class football team. Offensively, the main-spring for the Seahawks is QB Zorn -- passer, scrambler, and leader par excellence. Probably the best young signal caller in the NFL, Zorn has excellent targets for his aerials in Largent and McCullum on the outside, although more stable play is needed at tight end, where Howard and Sawyer block well enough but leave something to be desired in the pass catching department. The rushing attack has not one, but two potential 1,000-yard ball toters in Smith and Sims, and don't overlook Hunter, whose outside running speed gives the ground game the balance it needs. For a team in just its fourth year of existence, the Seahawks have a darned good offensive line, and the youthful make-up of the front wall bodes well for the future. A year ago, Seattle's defensive unit turned in its best performance ever, spearheaded by fine play in the secondary and at linebacker.

67 - Bill Cooper - DT
71 - Carl Eller - DT

Seattle Seahawks 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
12	Adkins, Sam	QB	6-2	214	24	3	Wichita State	0
64	~~Aiu, Charlie~~	G	6-2	250	25	4	Hawaii	1
76	August, Steve	T	6-5	254	25	3	Tulsa	14
27	Beamon, Autry	S	6-1	190	26	5	East Texas State	16
63	Bebout, Nick	T	6-5	260	28	7	Wyoming	16
58	Beeson, Terry	LB	6-3	240	24	3	Kansas	16
31	Benjamin, Bony	FB	6-3	225	24	3	Duke	6
68	Boyd, Dennis - Injured	DT	6-6	255	24	3	Oregon State	16
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	190	26	5	Michigan	16
72	Bullard, Louis	T	6-6	265	23	2	Jackson State	16
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	225	23	2	Memphis State	16
60	Coder, Ron	G	6-4	250	25	3	Penn State	0
34	Crawford, Rufus	RB	5-10	180	24	2	Virginia State	16
57	Cronan, Peter	LB	6-2	238	24	3	Boston College	15
6	~~Deutsch, Mike~~	P	6-0	200	25	1	Colorado State	0
25	Dufek, Don	S	6-0	195	25	3	Michigan	0
73	~~Evans, Norm~~	T	6-5	250	37	15	Texas Christian	13
89	Fergerson, Duke	WR	6-1	185	25	3	San Diego State	16
36	~~Geddes, Ken~~	LB	6-3	235	32	9	Nebraska	12
56	Green, Sammy	LB	6-2	230	25	4	Florida	16
77	Gregory, Bill	DE	6-5	260	30	9	Wisconsin	16
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	200	23	2	Arizona State	16
85	Hatley, Marcus	TE	6-2	230	24	1	Tulsa	0
8	~~Hedrick, Gavin~~	P	6-2	200	23	1	Washington State	0
90	Hemingway, Bryon	LB	6-3	215	25	1	Boston College	0
1	Herrera, Efren	K	5-9	190	28	5	UCLA	16
87	Howard, Ron	TE	6-4	230	28	6	Seattle	16
24	Hunter, Al	RB	5-11	195	24	3	Notre Dam	16
43	Jones, Herman	DB	6-3	207	23	1	Ohio State	0
92	Jordan, Bob	C/T	6-6	260	24	1	Memphis State	0
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	175	24	2	Oregon State	16
9	~~Korvas, Mike~~	P	5-10	183	23	1	Weber State	0
70	Kraayeveld, Dave	DE	6-5	255	24	2	Milton	12
54	Kuehn, Art	C	6-3	255	26	4	UCLA	16
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	184	25	4	Tulsa	16
23	Long, Doug	S	5-11	189	24	2	Whitworth	15
61	Lynch, Tom	G	6-5	260	24	3	Boston College	16
84	McCullum, Sam	WR	6-2	203	27	6	Montana State	16
59	McShane, Charles	LB	6-3	230	25	3	Cal Lutheran	14
92	Morrow, Jeff	DT	6-4	250	23	1	Minnesota	0
16	Myer, Steve	QB	6-2	200	25	4	New Mexico	4
78	Newton, Bob	G	6-5	260	30	9	Nebraska	16
71	~~Niehaus, Steve~~	DT	6-4	255	25	4	Notre Dame	14
88	Peets, Brian	TE	6-4	225	23	2	Pacific	7
62	Price, Ernie	DE	6-4	245	29	7	Texas A & I	12
83	Raible, Steve	WR	6-2	195	25	4	Georgia Tech	16
66	Sandifer, Bill - Injured	DT	6-6	260	27	6	UCLA	15
81	Sawyer, John	TE	6-2	230	26	5	Southern Miss.	11
48	Simpson, Keith	CB	6-1	195	23	2	Memphis State	13
35	Sims, David	FB	6-3	216	24	3	Georgia Tech	12
47	Smith, Sherman	RB	6-4	225	25	4	Miami (OH)	12
42	~~Testerman, Don~~	FB	6-2	230	27	4	Clemson	16
38	Thomas, Vince	FB	6-1	215	25	1	Tennessee State	0
18	Weaver, Herman	P	6-4	210	31	10	Tennessee	16
38	Webster, Cornell	CB	6-0	180	25	2	Tulsa	15
51	Yarno, John	C	6-5	251	25	3	Idaho	13
10	Zorn, Jim	QB	6-2	200	26	4	Cal Poly	16
33	Don Doucinik	RB	6-3	210	23	2	Washington St.	0 -12

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The front wall, while showing signs of improvement, is still a player or two away from being first class, and that may be too much of a handicap for the Seahawks to overcome this season. Each year, Coach Patera's gridders grow a little stronger, adding a player here and a player there -- slowly molding a championship caliber team. However, we still think the Seahawks are a little too thin in several areas (particularly on defense) to rule the AFC West Division in '79. But another winning record is a good probability, as Seattle continues to impress upon the rest of the NFL that they are no longer one of those push-over expansion teams.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Zom	443/240	20	3283	15
Myer	22/11	2	94	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Largent	71	1168	16.5	8
McCullem	37	525	14.2	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Webster	5	9	1.8	0
Harris	4	65	16.3	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Smith	165	805	4.9	6
Sims	174	752	4.3	14
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Weaver	66	2440	37.0	0
Herrera	3	73	24.3	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Sims	15	0/0	0/0	90
Herrera	0	40/44	13/21	79

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	SEAHAWKS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	345	331
NET RUSH	2394	2517
Avg Per Game	149.6	157.3
NET PASS	3117	3005
Att/Comp	467/261	460/263
Had Int	22	22
Avg Per Game	194.8	187.8
PUNTS/AVG	69/36.9	66/38.0
Punts Return/Yds	40/342	36/363
Avg Per Return	8.6	10.1
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	67/1510	66/1328
Avg Per Return	22.5	20.1
FUMBLES/LOST	36/19	34/17
FIELD GOALS	13/21	19/27
PATS	40/44	41/43
TOTAL POINTS	345	358

Kansas City Chiefs

(4-12-0)

There's an old saying that goes: "Necessity is the mother of invention." Such was the case for last year's Chiefs, as Coach Marv Levy installed a Wing-T offense that emphasized the team's strong rushing attack. And, considering the '78 Chiefs finished second in the NFL with 213.3 yards-per-game rushing, that part of Coach Levy's "Great Experiment" was a big success.

Not so successful, however, were the 4-12 Chiefs in the AFC West standings, as once again, they resided in the division basement. But the aspect of the '78 season Coach Levy points to with justified pride is that his first edition of Chiefs did manage to come within just 13 points -- the total margin of defeat in four games last year -- of posting a break-even campaign.

"Our players came so close so many times," comments Levy, "and if they continue to work hard and develop, they will gain the maturity they need to win those close ones in the future."

OFFENSE: Quite frankly, another very large reason why the Chiefs were so run-oriented last season was the mediocre passing of quarterbacks Mike Livingston and Tony Adams. For the entire '78 campaign, Livingston attempted 290 aerials, of which he completed 159, but only five of his tosses went for touchdowns as opposed to 13 interceptions.

Signal calling counterpart Adams put the pigskin in the air 79 times a year ago, but his 44 completions, two TDs and three interceptions were hardly an improvement. For some odd reason, the Chiefs have stood by their Livingston-Adams QB duo the past few years through failure after failure. Let's face it -- teams just don't win titles in the NFL with spotty play at the vital signal calling position. Others on hand for field general duties are Dennis Shaw, who attempted nary a forward pass in '78, and Pete Woods, sidelined the entire '78 campaign because of an injury.

As far as the other half of KC's passing attack is concerned, the receivers are qualified enough, led by tight end Walter White. Last year, the speedy White raced underneath 42 aerials, which he carted for 340 yards but only one touchdown. Hard-blocking Tony Samuels, who added six catches in '78, is the No. 2 honcho at tight end.

One of the wide receiving berths is capably filled by Henry Marshall, who notched 433 yards and two TDs on 26 catches a year ago. Marshall has the potential to be an outstanding deep threat, but only if the quarterbacking situation improves so that his talents can be utilized to their fullest. About the same can be said of the other regular at wideout, Larry Dorsey, who caught nine passes in '78, two for touchdowns, and averaged a team-high 18.8 yards-per-reception.

KC's relentless rushing attack dominated the offense last season to the extent of 663 running attempts, compared to 370

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	BALTIMORE
Sep	9	CLEVELAND
Sep	16	Houston
Sep	23	OAKLAND
Sep	30	Seattle
Oct	7	Cincinnati
Oct	14	DENVER
Oct	21	NY GIANTS
Oct	28	Denver
Nov	4	SAN DIEGO
Nov	11	PITTSBURGH
Nov	18	Oakland
Nov	25	San Diego
Dec	2	SEATTLE
Dec	9	Baltimore
Dec	16	Tampa Bay

Chiefs	1978 Results	Opp
24	at Cincinnati	23
17	Houston	20
10	at N.Y. Giants	26
17	Denver	23
13	at Buffalo	28
13	Tampa Bay	30
6	at Oakland	28
17	Cleveland	3
24	at Pittsburgh	27
10	Oakland	20
23	at San Diego	29
10	Seattle	13
23	San Diego	0
14	Buffalo	10
3	at Denver	24
19	at Seattle	23

Kansas City Chiefs Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Bell, Mike	DE	6-5	250	Colorado St
Fuller, Steve	QB	6-3	195	Clemson
Manumaleuna, Frank	LB	6-2	220	San Jose St
Gant, Earl	RB	6-2	200	Missouri
Gaines, Robert	WR	6-3	175	Washington
Kremer, Ken	DE	6-4	255	Ball State
Williams, Mike	RB	6-3	215	New Mexico
Folston, James	TE	6-3	220	Cameron (Okla)
Robinson, Joe	OT	6-5	250	Ohio State
DuPree, Mike	LB	6-2	211	Florida
Jackson, Gerald	DB	6-1	185	Mississippi St
Willis, Larry	WR	6-1	187	Alcorn State
Rome, Stan	WR	6-5	205	Clemson
Forrest, Michael	RB	6-2	227	Arkansas

passes. The busiest member of the ground gaining entourage, Tony Reed, dashed for 1,053 yards and six TDs on 206 carries in '78, second highest one-season rushing total in team history. Reed also topped the Chiefs in pass receiving with 48 catches, and he and San Diego's Lydell Mitchell were the only two AFC players to finish in the top ten in both rushing yardage and pass receptions.

Jet-propelled Ted McKnight, who averaged 6.0 yards an attempt on his way to 627 rushing yards in '78, adds even more outside quickness to the ground attack. The "tough yardage" ball toters called on to go up the middle are led by Arnold Morgado, who bashed for 593 yards and a team-high seven TDs via the ground route a year ago. Also on duty are Mark Bailey and 12-year veteran MacArthur Lane, responsible for 298 and 277 yards rushing, respectively, last season.

It goes without saying that KC's offensive line did some first-rate blocking last season to make the rushing offense so productive. Leading the charge is Pro Bowl center Jack Rudnay, ever dependable in the middle, with the guard holes occupied by Tom Condon and Bob Simmons. On the outside are tackles Charlie Getty and Matt Herkenhoff.

Reserve strength in the offensive line, where depth is always important because of the high injury ratio, is just above average for the Chiefs. Center Charlie Ane, G-T Rod Walters and tackle Larry Brown head the backup contingent, with anticipated help from two linemen out last season with injuries -- former regular Jim Nicholson and Darius Helton.

DEFENSE: The Chiefs also changed their defensive formation last season, switching to the 3-4, which is growing more popular all the time around the NFL. And while it's hard to say if that change of formation was the biggest difference, something sure did help the KC defenders improve in '78, when enemy runners were held to 149.3 yards-per-game compared to 211.8 per game the previous year.

However, there's no question in our minds that just as vital in that rejuvenated defense was the addition of outstanding young players like Art Still and Sylvester Hicks, the Chiefs' first two selections in last year's college draft. On his way to earning All-Rookie recognition in '78, the 6-7, 250-pound Still led KC in quarterback sacks with 6½. He also paced the down linemen with 120 total tackles.

With Still anchored at one end of the three-man line, and fellow second-year pro Hicks (5½ sacks last year) opposite him, the Chiefs boast two of the premier young flankmen in the league. However, reserve strength behind that duo leaves much to be desired, consisting of Dave Lindstrom and Willie Lee, the latter back in harness after an injury-abbreviated '78 campaign. Situated in the middle of the three-man front wall is nose tackle Don Parrish, fifth on the Chiefs last season in total tackles, with back-up support from Jeff Lloyd and Stan Johnson.

Another brilliant young defender, Gary

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Spani, heads up the linebacking corps, having earned All-Rookie honors himself in '78 when he put the blast on a team-high 144 enemy ball carriers. Spani and Dave Rozumek fill the inside 'backer spots in the four-man starting crew, while patrolling the outside will be Thomas Howard and Whitney Paul. Up until last year, Paul had played DE for the Chiefs, but his conversion helped to cement the linebacking corps. Jimbo Elrod, Charles Jackson and Clarence Sanders supply experienced depth at the 'backer positions, but we seriously doubt they'll be good enough to keep this area strong should too many injuries occur.

In the secondary, cornerback duties are shared by Gary Green, Emmitt Thomas and Tim Collier. Green is a tough pass defender and hard hitter who led the '78 Chiefs in fumble recoveries, and he also blocked one field goal and two extra point attempts. Thomas, a 14-year member of the Chiefs, and Collier -- who intercepted three passes last season -- share duties at the other corner.

Premier pass thief Tim Gray, who swiped six in '78, is solidly entrenched at strong safety. In addition to his pass stealing hi-jinks, the wide ranging Gray also led the secondary in total tackles. Opposite him at free safety is another young standout, Gary Barbaro, who added three more pass interceptions last season. Foremost of the back-ups at safety are Ted Burgmeier, Clyde Powers and Ricky Davis, although Burgmeier is the only one who seems to have the necessary experience to really help out should injury cut down one of the regulars.

Jan Stenerud, embarking on his 13th year with the Chiefs, takes care of place kicking duties after converting 20 of 30 field goals and 25 of 26 PATs last season. Former Canadian star Zenon Andrusyshyn is the punter. Last year, his first with KC, Andrusyshyn finished third in the AFC with a 41.1 yard average. When it comes to running back kicks, the pacesetter is diminutive Eddie Payton, fourth best in the AFC in both punt (11.4 yard average) and kickoff returns (25.8 average) last season.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: At this time a year ago, we said it would take some real doing for Coach Marv Levy to revive KC's pigskin fortunes. And, while the '78 Chiefs did pull off some surprises, our forecast proved to be right on the nose. Now, embarking on year two of Levy's tenure, we look for steady progress in the way of putting back together the pieces of the once-powerful KC team -- but, still and all, another losing year. Run, run, run is the modus-operandi on offense for the Chiefs, which is quite all right with ball toters like Tony Reed leading the way behind a powerful offensive line. But the passing attack is the proverbial other side of the coin, and a "one-horse" offense has about as much chance for real success in the NFL as the Single-Wing formation. In Livingston and Adams, the Chiefs have two QBs who just haven't shown the talents necessary to author a respectable aerial game, and it wouldn't surprise us in the least to see both of them shunted aside in favor of another signal caller before the '79 season is over. Over on defense, the Chiefs rally around their new 3-4 set-up and a handful of fine young "hitters" who should be able to hold their own as long as they aren't called on to spend too much time on the field. The only thing about the defense that worries us is the deep corps, a group that last year was burned by opposing passer to the tune of 2,820 aerial yards and a 60-percent completion rate. Perhaps the biggest single hurdle facing Coach Levy's second edition of KC pigskinners is, plain and simple, the fact that they must play in the rugged AFC West along with Denver, Oakland, San Diego and Seattle. A year ago, the Chiefs managed only one win against their divisional rivals as opposed to seven losses, and we doubt things will change much this time around.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Livingston	290/159	13	1573	5
Adams	79/44	3	415	2
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Reed	48	483	10.1	1
White	42	340	8.1	1
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Gray	6	118	19.7	0
Barbaro	3	92	30.7	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Reed	206	1053	5.1	6
McKnight	104	627	6.0	5
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Andrusyshyn	79	3247	41.1	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Stenerud	0	25/26	20/30	85
Morgado	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	Chiefs	Opp
FIRST DOWNS	287	284
NET RUSH	2986	2389
Avg Per Game	213.3	149.3
NET PASS	1834	2582
Att/Comp	370/204	365/219
Had Int	16	21
Avg Per Game	114.6	161.4
PUNTS/AVG	80/40.6	76/39.9
Punts Return/Yds	45/488	50/538
Avg Per Return	10.8	10.8
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	61/1456	54/1087
Avg Per Return	23.9	20.1
FUMBLES/LOST	32/18	30/14
FIELD GOALS	20/30	14/18
PATS	25/26	33/40
TOTAL POINTS	243	327

Kansas City Chiefs 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
11	Adams, Tony	QB	6-0	198	5	29	Utah State	16
7	Andrusyshyn, Zenon	P	6-2	210	2	31	UCLA	16
56	Ane, Charlie	C	6-1	233	5	27	Michigan State	16
39	Bailey, Mark	RB	6-3	237	3	25	Cal State-Long Beach	13
26	Barbaro, Gary	S	6-3	198	4	25	Nicholls State	16
85	Beckman, Ed	TE	6-4	223	3	24	Florida State	16
35	Belton, Horace	RB	5-9	200	2	24	Southeastern Louisiana	16
79	Brown, Larry	T	6-5	260	2	24	Miami	1
48	Burgmeier, Ted	S	5-10	185	2	24	Notre Dame	8
44	Collier, Tim	CB	5-11	166	4	25	East Texas State	15
65	Condon, Tom	G	6-3	240	6	27	Boston College	16
40	Davis, Ricky	S	6-0	180	4	26	Alabama	0
80	Dorsey, Larry	WR	6-1	190	4	26	Tennessee State	16
54	Elrod, Jimbo	LB	6-0	223	4	25	Oklahoma	16
77	Getty, Charlie	G-T	6-4	260	6	27	Penn State	16
46	Gray, Tim	S	6-1	200	5	27	Texas A&M	14
24	Green, Gary	CB	5-11	184	3	24	Baylor	16
62	Helton, Darius	G	6-2	260	2	25	North Carolina Central	0
60	Herkenhoff, Matt	T	6-4	255	4	28	Minnesota	16
75	Hicks, Sylvester	DE	6-4	248	2	24	Tennessee State	16
52	Howard, Thomas	LB	6-2	208	3	25	Texas Tech	16
51	Jackson, Charles	LB	6-3	236	2	24	Washington	16
72	Johnson, Stan	NT	6-4	275	2	24	Tennessee State	10
82	Kellar, Bill	WR	5-11	187	2	23	Stanford	5
42	Lane, MacArthur	RB	6-1	230	12	37	Utah State	16
78	Lee, Willie	DE-NT	6-4	250	4	29	Bethune-Cookman	0
71	Lindstrom, Dave	DE	6-6	249	2	25	Boston University	16
10	Livingston, Mike	QB	6-4	210	12	34	Southern Methodist	14
74	Lloyd, Jeff	NT	6-6	255	3	25	West Texas State	16
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	205	4	25	Missouri	16
22	McKnight, Ted	RB	6-1	205	3	25	Minnesota-Duluth	16
21	Morgado, Arnold	RB	6-0	210	3	27	Hawaii	16
70	Nicholson, Jim	T	6-6	275	6	29	Michigan State	6
61	Parrish, Don	NT-DE	6-2	255	2	24	Pittsburgh	15
64	Paul, Whitney	LB	6-3	220	4	26	Colorado	16
34	Payton, Eddie	RB	5-8	175	3	28	Jackson State	14
29	Powers, Clyde	S	6-1	195	5	28	Oklahoma	1
32	Reed, Tony	RB	5-11	197	3	24	Colorado	16
55	Rozumek, Dave	LB	6-1	212	4	25	5New Hampshire	16
58	Rudnay, Jack	C	6-3	240	10	32	Northwestern	16
81	Samuels, Tony	TE	6-4	229	3	25	Bethune-Cookman	16
50	Sanders, Clarence	LB	6-4	228	2	27	Cincinnati	16
12	Shaw, Dennis	QB	6-2	210	9	32	San Diego State	0
73	Simmons, Bob	G	6-4	260	3	25	Texas	16
86	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	2	24	North Texas State	12
59	Spani, Gary	LB	6-2	230	2	23	Kansas State	14
3	Stenerud, Jan	K	6-2	187	13	36	Montana State	16
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	252	2	24	Kentucky	16
18	Thomas, Emmitt	CB	6-2	192	14	36	Bishop	16
76	Walters, Rod	G-T	6-3	258	3	25	Iowa	16
88	White, Walter	TE	6-3	218	5	28	Maryland	16

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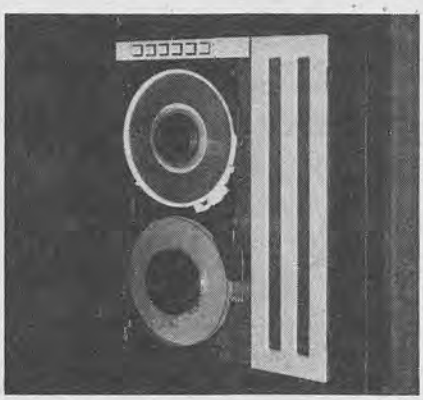

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE PREVIEW

The way things have been going for the teams in the National Conference lately, they're beginning to understand how the folks at Avis Car Rental feel -- good, but still only second best. Because, while the NFC did manage to salvage a 13-7 victory in the last edition of the Pro Bowl, the best the conference has to offer still looks like Ford Pintos when compared to the Cadillacs and Mercedes in the rival AFC.

Without reservation, the cream-of-the-crop in the NFC is Dallas. The Cowboys should easily extend their title reign in the East Division. Coach Tom Landry's talent-laden club fell just four points short of winning their second consecutive Super Bowl last season. However, barring some sort of major catastrophe, like an epidemic of injuries, the Cowpokes should get another shot at the BIG ONEthis time around.

Just as GAMEPLAN "scooped" all the other pre-season forecasters last year by tabbing the Philadelphia Eagles second in the NFC East, we also like the runner-up prospects of Coach Dick Vermeil's current edition of gridders. But it would be a fatal mistake for the Eagles to feel overly confident, since the St. Louis Cardinals may be on the move now that they're more accustomed to Coach Bud Wilkinson and his staff. Translated, that means we look for the Cards to soar higher in the AFC East, and a second place finish isn't out of the question if the Big Red defense continues to improve.

There's a real dog-fight shaping up for the fourth spot in the East, which also means staying out of the division basement. The Washington Redskins -- aching bones, Medicare cards and all -- still seem good enough to hold off the New York Giants, although the "Mara Men" could be a pleasant surprise if they respond well to new head coach Ray Perkins.

A long-standing tradition may be broken this season in the NFC Central, where the Minnesota Vikings are in no way a "shoo-in" for the title anymore. In fact, the Vikes are in real danger of slipping back a couple of notches in the standings, behind the Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears.

That's right, we're forecasting an NFC Central title for Coach Monte Clark's hungry, young Lions this year, with the equally-young and equally-hungry Chicago Bears running second. Where does that leave perennial kingpin Minnesota? Third in the standings, according to our crystal ball, because we think advancing age and the imminent retirement of quarterback Fran Tarkenton will force the Vikings to make some big adjustments.

The Green Bay Packers, who tied with Minnesota for last year's "Black-and-Blue Division" title, are going to slip back this time out. Back all the way to fourth place because the Packers just don't have enough overall talent to withstand losses such as the recent free agent defection of All-Pro cornerback Willie Buchanon to the San Diego Chargers. Bringing up the rear in the NFC Central will be the Tampa Bay Bucs, still building toward respectability, but still lacking a really solid foundation.

Out West, the only other first-rate team in the NFC, the Los Angeles Rams, should cakewalk to another championship. And who knows, if the Rams aren't hampered by internal bickering again and their ho-hum offense perks up, Los Angeles just might fulfill its Super Bowl destiny.

With an impressive array of young talent at his disposal, Coach Dick Nolan will guide the New Orleans Saints into second place. Breathing down their necks will be the Atlanta Falcons, they of the stout-hearted defense and the question mark offense. Under new head coach Bill Walsh, the San Francisco 49ers should make a better showing than last season, when they looked only a cut above your neighborhood sand lot team. But, in the end, that's where the 49ers will wind up -- at the end of the NFC West in last place.

Once again, the Dallas Cowboys and LA Rams rate as the 1-2 prospects to claim the National Conference title and a berth in Super Bowl XIV. But, then, that's nothing new. What will be "new" are the Detroit Lions, our pick to annex the NFC Central championship, although their lack of experience will prove their undoing come playoff time. Philadelphia and Atlanta filled the two NFC Wild Card berths in last season's playoffs; and, while the Eagles have a good shot at making the playoffs via that route again, the Falcons figure to take a backseat to New Orleans, Chicago and St. Louis in the race for this year's other Wild Card invite.

But the thinking man's choice to cop the NFC title -- for the third consecutive year -- are the Dallas Cowboys. Which will set up a re-match between the Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XIV and give Coach Tom Landry an opportunity to win his third BIG ONE.

Tony Dorsett, Dallas Cowboys

NFC EAST

St. Louis tackle Mike Dawson gobbles up Philadelphia's Ron Jaworski.

Dallas Cowboys

(14-5-0)

When you take a close look at Tom Landry and his Cowboys, you begin to realize that the football team is an on-the-field extension of its head coach. Never a wrinkle in sight, always cool and efficient, a team honed out of 100 percent stainless steel. In essence, the kind of team R2D2 and 3CPO -- the "Star Wars" robots -- would be very happy playing for.

No, we don't mean that in a snide sort of way, because we have nothing but the highest regard for Coach Landry, the players and the whole Dallas Cowboys organization. Their record of achievement is one of the most impressive in pro football annals. But no one, not even the most avid Cowboys rooter, can deny there is almost a "machine-like" quality about Coach Landry's gridders.

Take last season, a classic example, as the slow-starting Cowboys came on like Godzilla at the end of the campaign to blitz every opponent until they met their Waterloo at the hands of the Pittsburgh Steelers (35-31) in Super Bowl XIII. Even in that defeat, the Cowboys came THIS CLOSE to winning. And had it not been for an early break-down in their pass defense and one very costly, and controversial, officiating call, the big game might have gone the other way.

OFFENSE: Had the Cowpokes been able to win the last Super Bowl, much of the credit would have gone to quarterback Roger Staubach. It was "The Dodger's" pinpoint throwing that nearly saved the day for Dallas, but then, that's nothing new since Staubach has bailed this team out on numerous occasions in his ten years with the Cowboys.

Last season, for the second time in a row, Staubach won the NFL passing title with a list of credits that included 231 completions in 413 attempts, 3190 yards and 25 TD aerials. When he's right, spell that h-e-a-l-t-h-y, Staubach is the premier quarterback in the league, and he benefits the offense in more ways than will ever show up on any statistics list.

In reserve at the signal calling spot are Danny White and Glenn Carano, solid backups despite their limited experience. White tossed completions on 20 of 34 pass attempts last season, and he also handled the team's punting, averaging 40.5 yards a boot.

The "game breakers" in a superb pass receiving corps are wideouts Tony Hill and Drew Pearson, two of the best in pro football. Last season, in his first year as a regular, Hill rocketed for 823 yards (17.9 average) and six touchdowns on 46 catches, while Pearson was close behind with 44 grabs for 714 yards and three TDs. Pro Bowl stalwart Billy Joe DuPree, who snagged 34 aerials and a team-high nine scoring tosses in '78, is stationed at tight end, giving the Cowboys a dangerous trio of starters.

However, back-up strength at the receiving spots is another matter, and injuries in this area would really hurt the aerial attack. Speedster Butch Johnson, 12 pass receptions last season and top kick returner for the Cowboys, provides quality depth at the wideouts. But with the anticipated retirement of tight end reserve Jackie Smith, a 16-year veteran, it's vital that DuPree stay healthy.

Last season, the Cowboys led the NFC in rushing yardage with an average of 173.9 yards-per-game, and their top ball toter was flashy Tony Dorsett with 1,325 yards and seven rushing TDs on 290 carries. That was the second consecutive 1,000-yard rushing season for the former Heisman Trophy winner, and he has great durability for a running back listed at 190-pounds who probably weighs closer to one-eighty.

Robert Newhouse, an underrated seven-year pro, operates at the other running back after rushing for 584 yards and a team-leading eight touchdowns in '78. The Cowboys have a plethora of talented reserve running backs, headed up by versatile Preston Pearson, who paced the team in pass receptions with 47 last season. Others waiting in the wings are Scott Laidlaw, third in '78 rushing with 312 yards, Alois Blackwell and Larry Brinson.

Another area where the Cowpokes are well-stocked with talent is the offensive interior line. Snapping the ball is center John Fitzgerald, a battle-tested pivot, with Herbert Scott and Tom Rafferty lined up next to him at the guards. Rayfield Wright and Pat Donovan, both crushing pass blockers, occupy the tackle holes. There's also quality depth along the line, headlined by guards Burton Lawless and Tom Randall, center Jim Cooper and tackle Andy Frederick.

DEFENSE: Last year was another banner one for the Cowboy defensive unit, as they led the NFL in total defense (250.6 yards-per-game) and rushing defense (107.6). Which shouldn't come as much of a surprise when you consider that, man-for-man, Dallas has a stockpile of defensive standouts that rank with the very best in the game. And hardly a year goes by that the Cowpokes don't seem to reel in a few more blue-chip prospects to insure continued defensive excellence.

Starting in the front wall, there's wall-to-wall talent paced by All-Pros Randy White (tackle) and Harvey Martin (end), who protect the right side.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	St. Louis
Sep	9	San Francisco
Sep	16	CHICAGO
Sep	24	Cleveland
Sep	30	CINCINNATI
Oct	7	Minnesota
Oct	14	LOS ANGELES
Oct	21	ST. LOUIS
Oct	28	Pittsburgh
Nov	4	NY Giants
Nov	12	PHILADELPHIA
Nov	18	Washington
Nov	22	HOUSTON
Dec	2	NY GIANTS
Dec	8	Philadelphia
Dec	16	WASHINGTON

Cowboys	1978 Results	Opp
38	Baltimore	0
34	at N.Y. Giants	24
14	at Los Angeles	27
21	St. Louis	12
5	at Washington	9
24	N.Y. Giants	3
24	at St. Louis	21
14	Philadelphia	7
10	Minnesota	21
16	at Miami	23
42	at Green Bay	14
27	New Orleans	7
37	Washington	10
17	New England	10
31	at Philadelphia	13
30	at N.Y. Jets	7

Dallas Cowboys Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Shaw, Robert	C	6-4	240	Tennessee
Mitchell, Aaron	DB	6-1	195	Nevada-LV
Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-4	225	Santa Clara
DeLoach, Ralph	DE	6-5	240	California
Hukill, Bobby	OG	6-5	250	North Carolina
Anderson, Curtis	DE	6-4	240	Cent. Ohio St
Springs, Ron	RB	6-2	200	Ohio State
Lavender, Tim	DB	6-3	180	S'thern Cal
Salzano, Mike	OG	6-4	250	North Carolina
DeFrance, Chris	WR	6-1	205	Arizona State
Fitzpatrick, Greg	LB	6-3	230	Youngstown St
Cobb, Garry	LB	6-4	220	S'thern Cal
Calhoun, Mike	DE	6-5	240	Notre Dame
Lowry, Quentin	LB	6-2	220	Youngstown St

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1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Staubach	413/231	16	3190	25
D. White	34/20	1	215	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
P. Pearson	47	526	11.2	0
Hill	46	823	17.9	6
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Barnes	5	72	14.4	0
Waters	4	61	15.3	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Dorsett	290	1325	4.6	7
Newhouse	140	584	4.2	8
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
D. White	76	3076	40.5	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Septien	0	46/47	16/26	94
Dorsett	9	0/0	0/0	60

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	COWBOYS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	342	232
NET RUSH	2783	1721
Avg Per Game	173.9	107.6
NET PASS	3176	2288
Att/Comp	449/251	432/202
Had Int	17	23
Avg Per Game	198.5	143.0
PUNTS/AVG	77/39.9	108/39.2
Punts Return/Yds	65/502	40/311
Avg Per Return	8.0	7.8
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	47/896	73/1709
Avg Per Return	19.1	23.4
FUMBLES/LOST	36/18	27/13
FIELD GOALS	16/26	11/22
PATS	46/47	23/25
TOTAL POINTS	384	208

Both are tough to run against as well as deadly pass rushers, and any enemy quarterback who has White and Martin roaring in on him better hope his insurance premiums are paid up.

Their counterparts on the left side, flankman Ed Jones and tackle Larry Cole, may not get as much publicity, but they, too, are super defenders. The reserve situation up front was depleted somewhat by the retirement of Jethro Pugh, many times an All-Pro during his years with the Cowboys. Larry Bethea, a quick 255-pounder taken in round one of last year's college draft, and David Stalls head the reserve cast in the defensive line. But they may not be enough to keep the trench air-tight should too many injuries occur among the regulars.

'Member when we said earlier that the Cowboys are a pretty conservative group of players? Well, there are exceptions to every rule, and in this case, linebacker Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson is the BIG exception. The brash Henderson is never reluctant to express his opinion, but then, he's got the ability on the playing field to back up most of his talk. And isn't that the difference between a "braggard" and somebody who just has confidence in his own talent?

Henderson starts at one outside

Dallas Cowboys 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	6-1	195	8	28	Stanford	14
76	Bethea, Larry	DT	6-5	254	2	23	Michigan State	16
24	Blackwell, Alois	RB	5-10	195	2	25	Houston	13
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	6-2	225	5	26	Arizona State	16
36	Brinson, Larry	RB	6-0	214	3	25	Florida	10
59	Brown, Guy	LB	6-4	228	3	24	Houston	15
18	Carano, Glenn	QB	6-3	202	3	24	Nevada-Las Vegas	2
63	Cole, Larry	DE/DT	6-5	252	12	33	Hawaii	16
61	Cooper, Jim	C	6-5	260	3	24	Temple	14
21	Dennison, Dougi	RB	6-0	205	6	28	Kutztown State	5
67	Donovan, Pat	T	6-4	250	5	26	Stanford	16
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	190	3	25	Pittsburgh	16
89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE	6-4	229	7	29	Michigan State	16
62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6-5	260	9	31	Boston College	14
71	Frederick, Andy	T	6-6	255	3	25	New Mexico	16
43	Harris, Cliff	S	6-1	192	10	31	Ouachita	16
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	225	4	26	Tennessee State	16
56	Henderson, Thomas	LB	6-2	220	5	26	Langston	15
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	198	3	23	Stanford	16
42	Hughes, Randy	S	6-4	207	5	26	Oklahoma	16
57	Huther, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	3	25	New Hampshire	16
86	Johnson, Butch	WR	6-1	192	4	25	California-Riverside	16
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	270	6	28	Tennessee State	16
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB	5-10	185	4	25	Wyoming	16
35	Laidlaw, Scott	RB	6-0	205	5	26	Stanford	16
66	Lawless, Burton	G	6-4	255	5	26	Florida	16
50	Lewis, D.D.	LB	6-1	215	11	34	Mississippi State	16
79	Martin, Harvey	DE	6-5	250	7	29	East Texas State	16
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5-10	215	8	29	Houston	13
88	Pearson, Drew	WR	6-0	183	7	28	Tulsa	16
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	6-1	206	13	34	Illinois	16
64	Rafferty, Tom	G	6-3	250	4	25	Penn State	16
60	Randall, Tom	G	6-5	245	2	23	Iowa State	11
87	Saldi, Jay	TE	6-3	227	4	25	South Carolina	4
68	Scott, Herbert	G	6-2	252	5	26	Virginia Union	16
1	Septien, Rafael	K	5-9	171	3	26	Southwest Louisiana	16
81	Smith, Jackie	TE	6-4	230	17	39	Northwest Louisiana	12
65	Stalls, Dave	DT-DE	6-4	245	3	24	Northern Colorado	16
12	Staubach, Roger	QB	6-3	202	11	37	Navy	15
82	Steele, Robert	WR	6-4	196	2	23	North Alabama	14
32	Thurman, Dennis	CB	5-11	170	2	23	Southern California	16
46	Washington, Mark	CB	5-11	187	10	32	Morgan State	13
41	Waters, Charlie	S	6-2	200	10	31	Clemson	16
11	White, Danny	QB-P	6-2	192	4	27	Arizona State	16
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	250	5	26	Maryland	16
70	Wright, Rayfield	T	6-6	260	13	34	Fort Valley State	15

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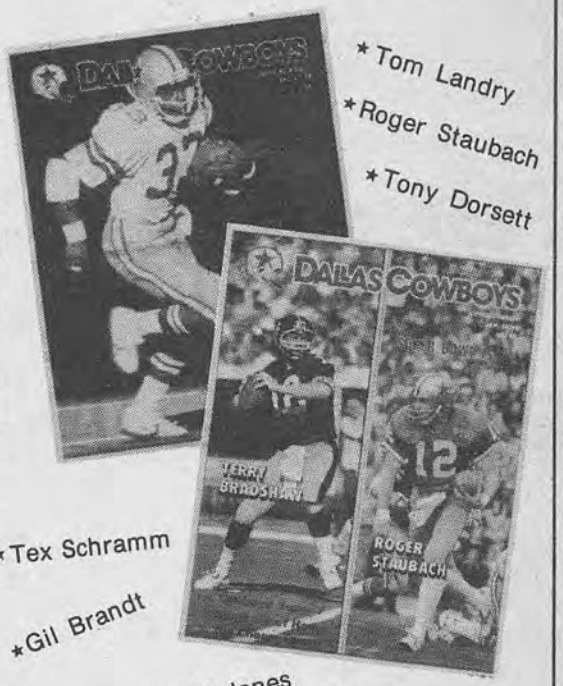

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'backer spot, opposite long-time Cowboy standout D.D. Lewis, with Bob Breunig in the middle. Backstopping them are Mike Hegman, Bruce Huther and Guy Brown -- all good young defenders -- which adds up to an excellent linebacking brigade.

In the secondary, the pacesetters are free safety Cliff Harris and strong safety Charlie Waters, who swiped four enemy passes apiece last season. The are the finest safety duo in the NFL. Hard-hitting Aaron Kyle and Benny Barnes, top intercepter with five in '78, hold forth at the cornerback spots. Mark Washington and Dennis Thurman provide excellent depth at the corners, while Randy Hughes is just as capable as a back-up safety.

As mentioned before, reserve QB Danny White handles the team's punting duties, and he's a good one. So is placekicker Rafael Septien, who split the uprights on 46-47 PATs and 16 of 26 field goals last season, although the Cowboys would like to see him improve his long-range kicking accuracy -- in '78, Septien converted only three out of ten attempts beyond the 40-yard line.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The Cowboys barely missed winning their second straight NFL title last season when they lost to the red-hot Pittsburgh Steelers. And, given the same set on conditions come Super Bowl XIV, wouldn't it be great to see the Cowboys and Steelers slug it out again? Of course, talking about it and actually getting there are different things -- although there's a very good chance Dallas could uphold its part of the bargain. Talent-wise, Coach Landry has the finest assemblage of players in the NFC, but it's very important to note one thing. Last season, in winning their second straight conference title, the Cowboys did not suffer one (repeat, not one) injury of a serious nature. Offensively, they will need the same kind of no-injury luck to keep the attack perking along, and obviously, most vital is the continued good health of QB Staubach. Plus, the receiving corps must remain injury-free as well for the passing attack to be explosive again. There's plenty of talent at the running back spots and in the interior line, and that's good because these are the two areas of the offense where the injury ratio is highest. The defensive unit also boasts an inordinate amount of talented players in the secondary and at the linebacking spots, so those areas look very secure. Not so encouraging is the back-up picture in the defensive line, and the front wall could show signs of crumbling should too many injuries strike. Otherwise, the Cowboy defense is just as strong as its offensive counterpart. Coach Landry will lead yet another excellent football team into the '79 NFL campaign, and the Cowboys -- barring utter calamity -- are almost a "shoo-in" to lock up another NFC East Division title. The Cowpokes also look like the "team-to-beat" in the battle for the National Conference championship, and hence, a berth in Super Bowl XIV. But then, there's really no such creature as a "sure-thing," so the Cowboys will need another 100 percent effort if they want a shot at winning what would be the team's third Super Bowl title.

Philadelphia Eagles

(9-8-0)

With the price of everything from gasoline to kumquats going higher all the time, most people are bargain-conscious when it comes to their buying habits. But every bargain hunter could learn a few things from Philly Coach Dick Vermeil. Because he's such an astute judge of quality at low prices, he could walk into a rummage sale and come out with a Stradivarius violin!

In his four years as Eagle skipper, Vermeil has molded a group of low draft picks, free agents and castoffs into a solid ball club. A team strong enough to run up a 9-7 record and land a Wild Card playoff berth last season. Which was the Eagles' first winning campaign since 1966 and their first playoff appearance since the 1960 NFL championship team led by Norm Van Brocklin and Chuck Bednarik.

OFFENSE: Certainly one of Coach Vermeil's very best acquisitions was quarterback Ron Jaworski, added via a 1977 trade with the LA Rams for tight end Charles Young. In just his third year with the Eagles, Jaworski has established himself as a respected leader, and according to Coach Vemeil: "I think there will be a day when we will say that he (Jaworski) is our franchise, the guy who is going to get it done."

Via the passing lanes in '78, the "Polish Rifle" hit the bull's-eye on 206 of 398 aerials, with 16 of those tosses going for six-pointers. Jaworski was also sacked (pass the bandages, please) 41 times last season, and while there's never been any problem about his durability, it would be comforting to see the blockers protect the "Franchise" better.

The No. 2 signal caller is John Walton, but in three years with the Eagles, his

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	NY GIANTS
Sep	10	ATLANTA
Sep	16	New Orleans
Sep	23	NY Giants
Sep	30	PITTSBURGH
Oct	7	Washington
Oct	14	St. Louis
Oct	21	WASHINGTON
Oct	28	Cincinnati
Nov	4	CLEVELAND
Nov	12	Dallas
Nov	18	ST. LOUIS
Nov	25	Green Bay
Dec	2	DETROIT
Dec	8	DALLAS
Dec	16	Houston

Eagles	1978 Results	Opp
14	Los Angeles	16
30	at Washington	35
24	at New Orleans	17
17	Miami	3
17	at Baltimore	14
14	at New England	24
17	Washington	10
7	at Dallas	14
10	St. Louis	16
10	Green Bay	3
17	N.Y. Jets	9
19	at N.Y. Giants	17
14	at St. Louis	10
27	at Minnesota	28
13	Dallas	31
20	N.Y. Giants	3

Philadelphia Eagles Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-3	208	UCLA
Perot, Petey	OG	6-4	240	NW Louisiana
Franklin, Tony	K	5-10	170	Texas A&M
Cowins, Ben	RB	6-0	202	Arkansas
Fitzkee, Scott	WR	6-0	180	Penn State
Swafford, Don	OT	6-6	244	Florida
Bunche, Curtis	DE	6-4	240	Albany (Ga) St
Correal, Chuck	C	6-4	232	Penn State
Chesley, Al	LB	6-4	222	Pittsburgh

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- ☐ JAMES HARRIS
- ☐ JIM ZORN
- ☐ NAT MOORE
- ☐ CRAIG MORTON
- ☐ JIM HART
- ☐ RICKY BELL
- ☐ BILLY KILMER
- ☐ JOHN RIGGINS
- ☐ RICH CASTER
- ☐ RON SELLERS
- ☐ ROMAN GABRIEL
- ☐ TOM MATTE
- ☐ JIM NANCE
- ☐ GEORGE WEBSTER
- ☐ LANCE ALWORTH
- ☐ HOMER JONES
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playing time has been very limited. How limited? Would you believe a total of 29 passing attempts during that span! Newly arrived at quarterback is Sonny Wade, for many years one of the premier field generals in the Canadian pro league.

When quarterback Jaworski cranks up his throwing arm, he usually looks first for Harold Carmichael -- wouldn't you if you had a target who stands 6-feet-eight and can run faster than a jackrabbit with a hot foot? A year ago, Carmichael finished among the league leaders with 55 receptions, a 19.5-yard per catch average and eight TD catches.

Stationed opposite Carmichael at the other wide receiving spot is Charley Smith, who can really "cook" as a deep threat when he isn't bothered by injuries. Such wasn't the case last season, when Smith caught a career-low 11 passes and scored twice, although he did come on strong at the end of the '78 campaign when he was healthy again.

Listed as the primary back-ups at wide receiver are Vince Papale and Oren Middlebrook, but neither of them caught a single forward pass last season. Back from the injured ranks, and sure to add strength to the reserve corps if he's 100 percent again, is Wally Henry. Last season, before a leg injury curtailed his play, Henry demonstrated game-breaking speed running back punts with a 15.5-yard average and a 57-yard scoring romp.

Back at tight end is Keith Krepfle, who was on his way to a great season in '78 (26 catches; three TDs) until an injury sidelined him in the latter part of the campaign. Supplying good depth at this position is Richard Osborne, who filled in for Krepfle last season with 13 pass receptions and strong blocking.

It's been a long time since the Eagles had an electrifying ball carrier the likes of Wilbert Montgomery, third leading rusher in the National Conference last season with 1,220 yards and nine TDs on 259 attempts. Montgomery is a third-year pro who accelerates like a LeMans racing car, which enables him to nip through holes quicker than a blink. His running mate in the backfield, Mike Hogan, hammered out 607 yards on the ground in '78, plus he's a savage blocker.

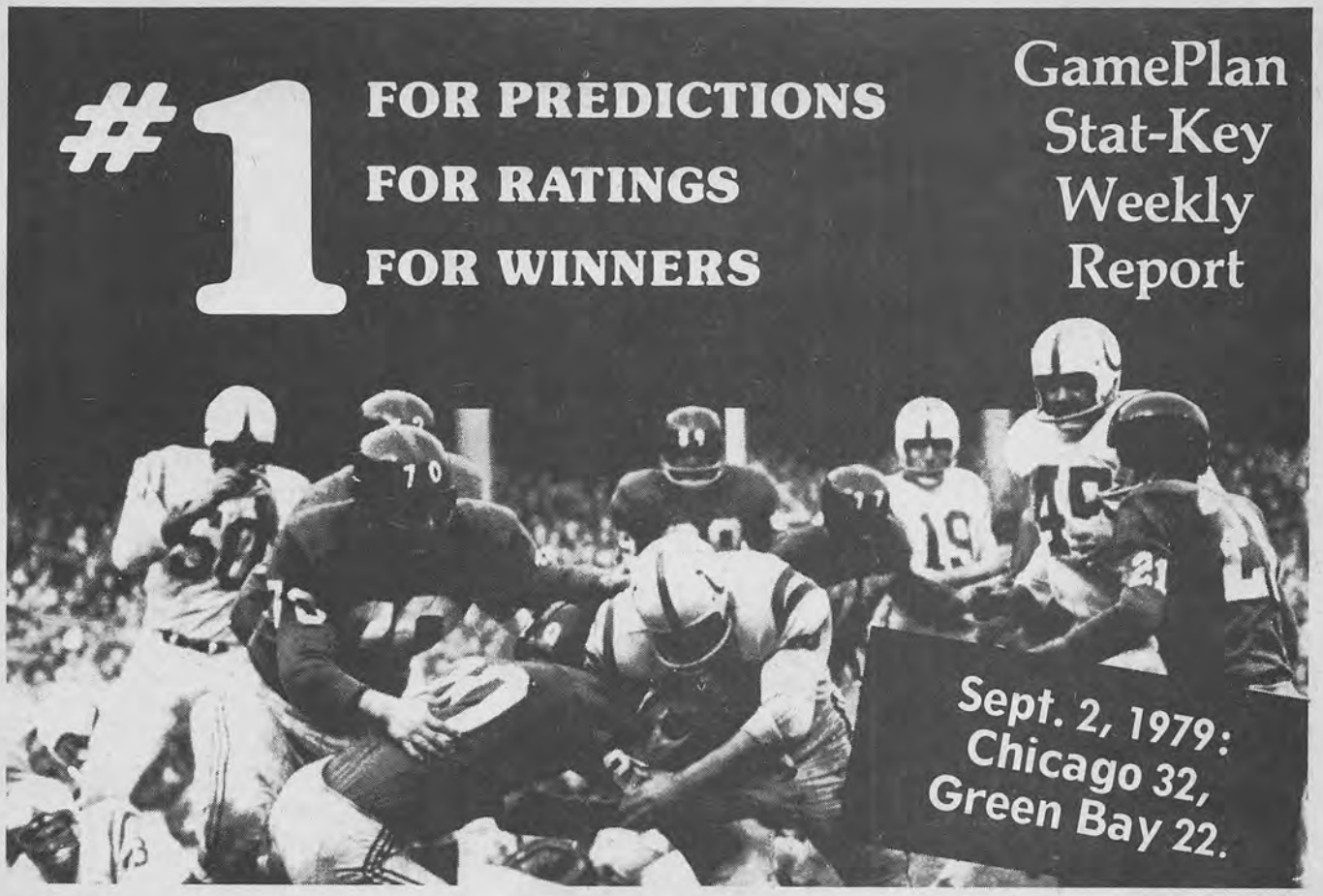
There's a varied group in reserve at the running backs, in alphabetical order: Larry Barnes, Jim Betterson, Billy Campfield, Cleveland Franklin, Louie Giammona and Herb Lusk. Campfield and Franklin were the most productive last season, rushing for an aggregate 414 yards, while Betterson and Lusk should provide more running punch if they avoid injuries. But, in the final analysis, we think the rushing attack will tail off if the regular running backs (especially Montgomery) don't stay healthy.

It becomes more apparent all the time that the Eagles have some fine -- though not well known -- blockers in the offensive line. Without whom, we might add, the attack could not wield such a strong punch. The strongpoint up front is the play at the tackle positions, where Stan Walters mans one side after earning a trip to the Pro Bowl last season, with potential all-star Jerry Sisemore opposite him. But like so many other areas of this team, depth at tackle is thinner than a diet cookie, consisting of only Jim Yarbrough, an offseason acquisition and former starter for the Detroit Lions.

Another up front regular who originally came to the Eagles as a '78 free agent, Woody Peoples, fills one guard hole, with Wade Key opposite him and Guy Morris over the ball at center. Tom Lukens is a former regular providing battle-tested depth at guard, while back-up center Dennis Franks is good enough to challenge for the starting job if he keeps improving.

DEFENSE: The Eagles employ a 3-4 alignment and, like so many teams that use four linebackers, they're very hard to run against, allowing just 116.4 yards-per-game on the ground last season. But, one of the handicaps of such a set-up is that unless a team has super pass rushers in the three-man front wall, enemy quarterbacks often have too much time to unload, which they did in '78 to the tune of 173.3 yards-per-game and 17 touchdown aerials as the Eagles came up with only 29 QB sacks.

However, they moved to rectify that pass rush shortcoming during the off-season, when they acquired via trade former Atlanta Falcon All-Pro end Claude Humphrey. He is expected to share playing time with last year's flank regulars, Carl Hairston and Dennis Harrison, and the addition of Humphrey elicits the following comment from



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Coach Vermeil: "Now we have flexibility in our defensive alignment. We can go into a 40 defense (four-man-line) on a third down passing situation and maybe it will improve our pass rush."

Lining up on the nose of enemy centers is brawny middle guard Charlie Johnson, who plays rugged defense against the run but needs to improve his pass rushing techniques. The primary reserve at MG is Kenny Clarke, a second-year pro who often replaces starter Johnson on third down passing situations because of his quickness at getting to enemy throwers. The remaining veterans up front, Manny Sistrunk and Lem Burnham, were both handicapped by injuries in '78, and their healthy return bodes well for the trench troops.

Four-time Pro Bowl selection Bill Bergey is at the vanguard of the linebacking corps. Last season, Bergey led the team with 126 solo tackles, logged 5½ quarterbacks sacks and recovered five fumbles. He mans one inside 'backer spot in the four-man scheme, with the other inside berth filled by Frank LeMaster, also a capable veteran who returned a pass interception for a touchdown last season. At the end of the '78 campaign, Reggie Wilkes and Ray Phillips occupied the two outside positions, but neither is assured of holding onto those starting jobs.

Pushing Wilkes and Phillips very hard will be John Bunting and Drew Mahalic, both former regulars sidetracked by physical maladies in '78. Terry Tautolo and Mike Osborn round out the veteran cast at linebacker, which overall, looks to enjoy very good depth.

Calling shots in the secondary is accomplished veteran strong safety Randy Logan, always a rugged defender against the run and an improving pass defender. Across from him at free safety is John Sanders, second on the team with five pass interceptions (one for a touchdown) last season. Eric Johnson and John Sciarra are the reserve safeties, with Sciarra a potential starter at free safety if he avoids the injuries that hampered him a year ago.

Top pass thief Herman Edwards, who stole seven in '78, along with Bobby Howard are on duty at the cornerback positions. Charlie Williams, Bill Bryant and Johnny Outlaw are in reserve at the corners. Williams was a starter last season until felled by an injury.

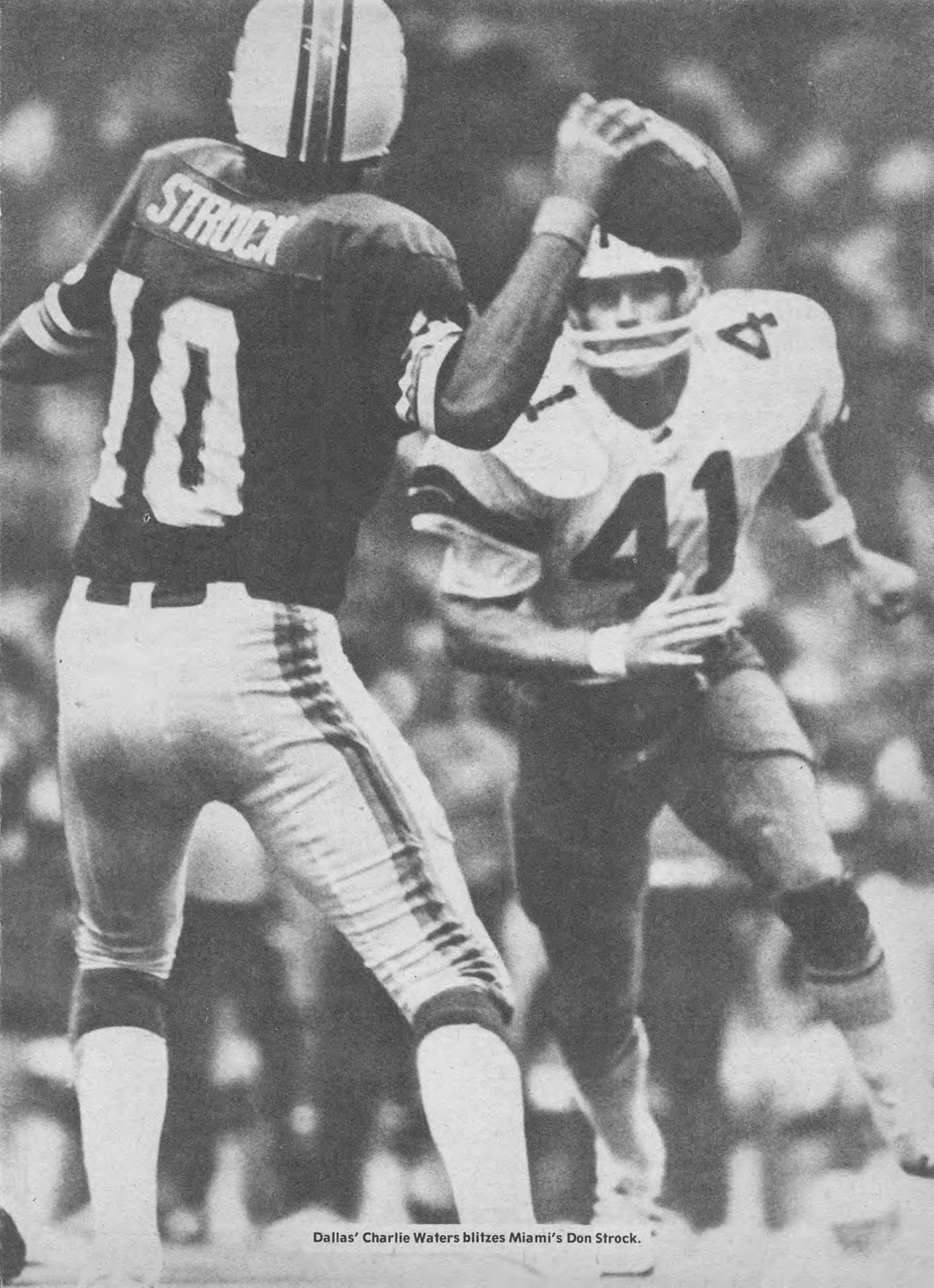
The kicking game caused Coach Vermeil some sleepless nights last season when punter Mike Michel (35.8 yard average in '78) also had to take over as placekicker when Nick Mike-Mayer fell victim to injury. Mike-Mayer, 21-24 on PATs and 8-17 on field goals before he

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Jaworski	398/206	10	2487	16
Engles	1/1	0	-2	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Carmichael	55	1072	19.5	8
Montgomery	34	195	5.7	1
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Edwards	7	59	8.4	0
Sanders	5	43	8.6	1
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Montgomery	259	1220	4.7	9
Hogan	145	607	4.2	4
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Michel	58	2078	35.8	0
Engles	33	1307	39.6	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Montgomery	10	0/0	0/0	60
Carmichel	8	0/0	0/0	48

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	EAGLES	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	271	248
NET RUSH	2456	1862
Avg Per Game	153.5	116.4
NET PASS	2197	2773
Att/Comp	401/207	448/228
Had Int	16	28
Avg Per Game	137.3	173.3
PUNTS/AVG	92/36.8	83/39.1
Punts Return/Yds	48/416	47/354
Avg Per Return	8.7	7.5
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	57/1134	56/1154
Avg Per Return	19.9	20.6
FUMBLES/LOST	37/22	40/22
FIELD GOALS	8/17	14/26
PATS	30/36	28/30
TOTAL POINTS	270	250



Dallas' Charlie Waters blitzes Miami's Don Strock.

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got hurt last season, should re-claim his old job if he can overcome leg problems. And Michel's punting job could be jeopardized by the arrival of Canadian import Sonny Wade, a quarterbacking prospect who's also a punter who can boot 'em high and deep.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: We don't often toot our own horn, but GAMEPLAN was the only pre-season publication last year that predicted a second place finish in the NFC East for the Eagles. This time around, Coach Vermeil's gridders could end up No. 2 again, although it will require an injury-free season. Philly's offense is sound on the ground and through the air, with a solid starting cast up front making way for standouts like Jaworski, Montgomery and Carmichael at the skill positions. Likewise, we like the cut of the Eagles' defensive unit, especially the linebacking corps, the heart-and-soul of the team's grudging defense against the run. A big plus for the stop troops is the addition of Claude Humphrey, a skillful pass rusher and just what the doctor ordered for the defensive unit's biggest single weakness. As we said in this spot a year ago, the "maker or breaker" for the Eagles are injuries, or lack of same, because reserve strength on both offense and defense looks pretty slim. If that one condition is met, Coach Vermeil's scrappy gang should forge out another winning record this season. But the Eagles may not be so fortunate in their bid to repeat as runner-up to (who else?) the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC East.

Philadelphia Eagles 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	Games IN '78
38	Barnes, Larry	FB	5-11	220	25	3	Tennesee State	7
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	245	34	11	Arkansas State	16
34	Betterson, James	RB	6-0	210	25	3	North Carolina	9
25	Bryant, Bill	CB	5-11	195	28	4	Grambling	3
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	29	8	North Carolina	6
67	Burnham, Lem	DE	6-4	240	32	3	U.S. Int'l.	15
37	Campfield, Billy	RB	5-11	185	23	2	Kansas	16
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR	6-8	225	30	9	Southern	16
71	Clarke, Ken	MG	6-2	255	23	2	Syracuse	16
46	Edwards, Herman	S	6-0	194	25	3	San Diego State	16
30	Franklin, Cleveland	RB	6-2	216	24	3	Baylor	16
53	Franks, Dennis	C	6-1	245	26	4	Michigan	16
64	George, Ed	T	6-4	270	33	5	Wake Forest	16
33	Giammona, Louie	HB/KR	5-9	180	26	3	Utah State	7
78	Hariston, Carl	DE	6-3	245	27	4	Maryland E-S	16
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	275	23	2	Vanderbilt	16
89	Henry, Wally	WR	5-8	170	25	3	UCLA	16
35	Hogan, Mike	RB	6-2	215	25	4	Tenn-Chattanooga	14
23	Howard, Bobby	CB	6-1	175	35	13	San Diego State	10
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	265	35	12	Tennessee State	4
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	195	28	6	Youngstown State	16
65	Johnson, Charlie	MG	6-3	262	27	3	Colorado	16
49	Johnson, Eric	S	6-1	192	27	3	Washington State	16
72	Key, Wade	G	6-5	245	33	10	Southwest Texas St.	13
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE	6-3	225	27	5	Iowa State	10
88	Larson, Bill	TE	6-4	225	26	4	Colorado State	5
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	231	27	6	Kentucky	16
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	28	7	Michigan	16
63	Luken, Tom	G	6-3	253	29	7	Purdue	16
32	Lusk, Herb	RB	6-0	190	26	4	Long Beach State	3
54	Mahalic, Drew	LB	6-4	225	26	5	Notre Dame	9
2	Michel, Mike	P	5-10	177	25	3	Stanford	10
81	Middlebrook, Oren	WR	6-2	185	26	2	Arkansas State	16
1	Mike-Mayer, Nick	K	5-9	187	29	7	Temple	12
31	Montgomery, Wilbert	RB	5-10	195	25	3	Abilene Christian	14
50	Morriss, Guy	C	6-4	255	28	7	Texas Christian	16
57	Osborn, Mike	LB	6-5	235	24	2	Kansas State	16
86	Osborne, Richard	TE	6-3	230	26	4	Texas A & M	16
20	Outlaw, Johnny	CB	5-10	180	33	11	Jackson State	14
83	Papale, Vince	WR	6-2	195	33	4	St. Joseph's (PA)	13
82	Payne, Ken	WR	6-2	185	29	6	Langston	16
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	252	36	11	Grambling	15
52	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-4	217	25	3	Nebraska	10
26	Sanders, John	S	6-1	175	28	5	South Dakota	15
21	Sciarra, John	FS	5-11	185	25	2	UCLA	16
76	Sisemore, Jerry	G/T	6-4	260	28	7	Texas	16
79	Sistrunk, Manny	DE	6-5	275	32	10	Arkansas AM&N	16
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	29	6	Grambling	14
58	Tautolo, Terry	LB	6-2	235	25	4	UCLA	16
75	Walter, Stan	T	6-6	270	31	8	Syracuse	16
11	Walton, John	QB	6-2	210	32	5	Elizabeth City St.	4
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	230	23	2	Georgia Tech	16
47	Williams, Charles	CB	6-1	180	26	2	Jackson State	7
	Yarbrough, Jim	T	6-6	270	33	11	Florida	0

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St. Louis Cardinals

(6-10-0)

The infamous Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde had nothing on last year's Cardinals, an 0-8 washout the first half of the season, but a solid 6-2 down the backstretch. Which brings us to the inevitable question so often asked by Gary Moore on the "To Tell The Truth" TV quiz show: "Will the real St. Louis Cardinals please stand up!"

That's a question Coach Bud Wilkinson, in his second year at the Big Red helm, would also like to have answered. Because, while the former Oklahoma U. coaching legend was pleased with the second half surge by the Cards, he comments:

"The reality of 1978 is still 6-10. We made strides and we're not that far from playing any team head-to-head. But we're a couple of top flight starters away... that, and fewer injuries."

The "injuries" mentioned by Coach Wilkinson were a season-long problem for the '78 Cardinals, claiming five starting players before the year was out. But perhaps just as serious were a series of nagging, although not crippling, injuries that necessitated personnel changes on both offense and defense. And it doesn't take a football genius to realize that such a state of affairs can only undermine that intangible called "unity," which is so very important to winning football teams.

OFFENSE: Come rain, sleet, snow or hail, one member of the Big Red who always seems to answer the opening bell is quarterback Jim Hart. A year ago, Hart launched 476 forward passes, of which he hit the mark on 240, accounting for 3,121 yards and 16 touchdowns. By Hart's standards, that was not really a great performance, but in the early stages of the '78 campaign, he was victimized by the erratic blocking of an offensive line plagued by injuries and the resultant shuffling of personnel.

Entering his 15th NFL campaign, Hart reigns as one of the league's pre-eminent signal callers. But what of the reserves at QB should he need relief? On hand are Steve Pisarkiewicz, a No. 1 draftee in '77, and Mark Manges, a free agent signee last year. Last season, Pisarkiewicz played in just three games for the Cards, going 10 for 29 with three inreceptions and no TDs via the air lanes. Given that as a background, even if 'Zark has all the potential in the world, we have to feel his lack of experience will be a major handicap should he be called upon in the event Hart himself is bitten by the injury bug.

The pass receiving corps was shaken by injuries last season, the most serious sustained by tight end J.V. Cain, who missed the entire campaign. In his absence, ex-New England Patriot Al Chandler and Eason Ramson filled in, combining for 39 catches. Chandler tied for team leadership with four scoring receptions. Fully recovered now, Cain

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	DALLAS
Sep	9	NY Giants
Sep	16	PITTSBURGH
Sep	23	WASHINGTON
Sep	30	Los Angeles
Oct	7	Houston
Oct	14	PHILADELPHIA
Oct	21	Dallas
Oct	28	CLEVELAND
Nov	4	MINNESOTA
Nov	11	Washington
Nov	18	Philadelphia
Nov	25	Cincinnati
Dec	2	SAN FRANCISCO
Dec	9	NY GIANTS
Dec	16	Chicago

Cardinals	1978 Results	Opp
10	at Chicago	17
6	New England	16
10	Washington	28
12	at Dallas	21
10	at Miami	24
17	Baltimore	30
21	Dallas	24
10	at N.Y. Jets	23
16	at Philadelphia	10
20	N.Y. Giants	10
16	at San Francisco	10
27	at Washington	17
10	Philadelphia	14
21	Detroit	14
0	at N.Y. Giants	17
42	Atlanta	21

St. Louis Cardinals 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
27	Allen, Carl	DB	6-0	186	24	3	Southern Mississippi	15
50	Allerman, Kurt	LB	6-3	222	24	3	Penn State	15
89	Amundson, George	TE	6-3	230	28	4	Iowa State	0
89	Anderson, Warren	WR	6-0	200	24	3	W. Virginia State	2
57	Arneson, Mark	LB	6-2	224	30	8	Arizona	16
25	Bakken, Jim	K	6-0	198	39	18	Wisconsin	16
54	Banks, Tom	C/G	6-2	245	31	8	Auburn	16
58	Barefield, John	LB	6-2	224	24	2	Texas A & I	9
79	Bell, Bob	DE	6-4	257	31	9	Cincinnati	15
20	Bell, Gordon	RB	5-9	180	26	4	Michigan	6
51	Brahaney, Tom	C	6-2	246	28	7	Oklahoma	16
88	Cain, J.V.	TE	6-4	221	28	5	Colorado	0
87	Chandler, Al	TE	6-3	229	29	6	Oklahoma	11
86	Childs, Jim	WR	6-2	194	23	2	Cal Poly	8
54	Clay, Anthony	LB	6-1	230	23	1	S. Carolina State	0
66	Collins, George	G	6-2	248	24	2	Georgia	13
76	Davis, Charlie	DT	6-2	275	28	5	Texas Christian	1
73	Dawson, Mike	DT	6-4	274	26	4	Arizona	16
72	Dierdorf, Dan	T	6-3	288	30	9	Michigan	16
28	Farmer, Ted	RB	5-11	175	26	2	Oregon	2
60	Finnie, Roger	T	6-3	260	34	11	Florida A & M	7
28	Giblin, Robert	S	6-1	205	27	4	Houston	0
85	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	173	31	9	Missouri	13
40	Greene, Doug	DB	6-2	205	23	2	Texas A & I	15
37	Greene, Ken	DB	6-3	203	23	2	Washington State	16
39	Harrell, Willard	RB	5-8	182	27	5	Pacific	13
17	Hart, Jim	QB	6-1	210	35	14	Southern Illinois	15
34	Jones, Steve	RB	6-0	198	28	7	Duke	16
56	Kearney, Tim	LB	6-2	221	29	8	Northern Michigan	15
12	Little, Steve	P/K	6-0	180	23	2	Arkansas	11
18	Manges, Mark	QB	6-2	210	23	2	Maryland	1
24	Morris, Wayne	RB	6-0	208	25	4	SMU	13
65	Mullen, Tom	G	6-3	245	28	6	S.W. Missouri St.	7
53	Neils, Steve	LB	6-2	218	28	6	Minnesota	16
38	Nelson, Lee	CB	5-10	185	25	4	Florida State	16
35	Otis, Jim	RB	6-0	220	31	10	Ohio State	15
15	Pisarkiewicz, Steve	QB	6-2	205	26	3	Missouri	3
82	Pollard, Bob	DE	6-3	251	31	9	Weber State	15
80	Ramson, Eason	TE	6-2	220	23	2	Washington State	15
70	Simons, Keith	DT	6-3	254	25	4	Minnesota	13
45	Smith, Perry	CB	6-0	190	28	7	Colorado State	16
84	Stief, Dave	WR	6-3	195	23	2	Portland State	15
68	Stieve, Terry	G	6-2	245	25	4	Wisconsin	16
23	Stone, Ken	S	6-1	180	29	7	Vanderbilt	14
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	171	26	4	Louisiana Tech	16
59	Townsend, Curtis	LB	6-1	229	24	3	Arkansas	9
22	Wehrli, Roger	CB	6-0	193	32	11	Missouri	16
55	Williams, Eric	LB	6-2	225	25	3	Southern Cal	13
74	Silliams, Jack	T	6-4	255	22	1	Bowling Green	0
19	Wood, Mike	P/K	5-11	199	25	2	S.E. Missouri St.	8
44	Woolsey, Rolley	DB	6-1	182	26	4	Boise State	2
62	Wortman, Keith	G	6-2	275	29	8	Nebraska	14
78	Yankowski, Ron	DE	6-5	258	33	9	Kansas State	16
64	Young, Bob	G	6-1	279	37	14	Howard Payne	16
63	Zook, John	DE	6-5	254	32	11	Kansas	16

should move back to the forefront at tight end, and he's a potential Pro Bowler who can block and catch with equal aplomb.

In terms of numbers, tops among the Big Red's pass grabbers a year ago was wideout Pat Tilley, tied for fifth in the NFL with 62 receptions for 900 yards and three TDs. But the team's long-distance ace is flyer Mel Gray, who averaged 19.9 yards on 44 catches in '78. However, he was held to only one touchdown because of injuries and double-coverage by enemy defenders. Providing adequate depth at WR is second-year pro Dave Stief, a 7th round draft pick last year who responded with 24 grabs, which he converted into 477 yards (19.6 average) and four scoring passes.

Headlining a rushing attack that needs to up its production is unsung workhorse Jim Otis, who belted for a team-high 664 yards last season to become the leading ground gainer in Cardinal history. Otis also rammed into enemy end zones eight times in '78 to finish second on the team scoring chart. Barreling out of the other running back slot is talented Wayne Morris, second in ground gaining yardage (631) and third in pass receiving (33 for 298) last season despite missing the final three games because of an injury. If Morris can ever stay healthy for an entire season, he's a good bet to surpass 1,000-yards rushing, and the Cardinals sure could use such a big gun after managing just 122.0 yards-per-game on the ground last year.

The reserve running back situation is fairly solid, with those in the wings including Steve Jones, who ripped for 392 yards last season, and ex-Green Bay Packer Willard Harrell, a speedster who doubles as a kick returner. Last year, his first with the Cards, Harrell demonstrated his kick return prowess with a 9.3 yard average including a 70-yard TD scamper) on punt runbacks and a 20.5 norm on kickoff returns.

Up front, in the offensive interior line, the Cards are still first-rate, with Pro Bowl stalwarts in center Tom Banks, guard Bob Young and tackle Dan Dierdorf. Early in the '78 campaign, injuries forced extensive shuffling of players, but the blocking corps still held up well, and for the fifth consecutive year, the Big Red allowed the fewest quarterback sacks in the NFC.

Ex-New Orleans Saint Terry Stieve is stationed at the other guard spot, while rounding out the starting corps of blockers is tackle Keith Wortman. Former regular Roger Finnie and Tom Brahaney are the foremost reserves, although both are free agents as of this

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Information So Comprehensive Absolutely Nothing Is Missing

Page 7, first team on the page

Head Coach

Nickname

Log of past games

Complete schedule

Individual game analysis by professional correspondents

Scoring sequence

Complete game statistics

Season's statistical totals for team with differential

Season's average point totals plus average win & loss margins

Season's pointspread record

Results of last year's game

Preview of upcoming game

Season's record

Playing surface

weekly log of team's power rating

Current power rating

(7-3) MICHIGAN (9-1) (7-4) OHIO ST. (7-2-1)
Bo Schembechler Power Rtg.:124 AT Woody Hayes Power Rtg.: 114 NT
Wolverines Buckeyes
119) (120) (122) (124) (123) (121) (122) (119) (122) (120) (116) (114) (112) (114)
(123) (123) (123) (124) (114) (115) (115) (114)

1978 Schedule

S 16 Illinois 70	(+23)(+25)			
23 at N'Dame 122	(P'k)(-1)	31.0*		
30 Duke 100	(+16)(+17)	28-14*		
O 7 Arizona 85	(+22)(+21)	45-0*		
14 Mich. St. 113	(+15)(+15)	21-17		
21 at Wisc. 78	(+17)(+15)	15-4		
28 Minn. 80	(+23)(+23)	2-0*		
N 4 at Iowa 74	(NL)(NL)	2-10*		
11 at N'western 58	(NL)(NL)	34-0		
18 Purdue 83	(+15)(+1	59-14		
25 at Ohio St. 115		24-6*		
		1:30		

Game No

Michigan's ground game m
Tailback Harlan Huckleby
and scored two touchd
gained 73 yards on eigh
just four times. The Wolv
47 yards through three c
Duke 0
Michigan

1st Downs
Rushes-Yd
Passing
Return
Passin
Punts
Fumbles
Pe

1978 Schedule

S. 16 Penn St. 123	(F7)(+6½)			
23 at Minn. 81	(+17)(+17½)	0-19		
30 Baylor 87	(+14)(+14)	27-10		
O. 7 SMU 74	(+13)(+13)	34-28		
14 at Purdue 80	(+10)(+7½)	35-35		
21 Iowa 75	(+16)(NL)	16-27		
28 N'western 59	(NL)(NL)	31-7		
N. 4 at Wisconsin 75	(+18)(+18)	63-20		
11 Illinois 64	(NL)(NL)	40-14*		
18 at Indiana 83	(+16)(+15½)	45-7		
25 Mich. 123		21-18		
		1:30		

Game No. 3

Art Schlichter

Opponent's Power Rating | Opening Line | Closing Line | Final Score | *Pointspread Winner Against | Closing Line

S. 16 Penn St. 123	(F7)(+6½)			
23 at Minn. 81	(+17)(+17½)	0-19*		
30 Baylor 87	(+14)(+14)	27-10		
O. 7 SMU 74	(+13)(+13)	34-28		
at Purdue 80	(+10)(+7½)	35-35		
	(+16)(NL)			

Totals a

	MICH		
1st Downs	228	133	
Rsh. Att.	635	372	+263
Rsh. Yds.	2681	991	+1690
Avg. Rsh.	4.2	2.7	+1.5
Ps. Comp.	65	202	-45
Ps. Att.	124	110	-78
Ps. Yds.	1095	1075	+20
Had Int.	4	11	-7
Ret. Yds.	295	186	+109
Punts	46-50.5	64-40.8	-18, +9.7
Fum.-Lost	21-10	24-12	-3, -2
Pen.-Yds.	37-375	32-327	+5, +48

Points

	MICH	OPP
Avg. Pts. Scored Home	29.7	15.2
Avg. Pts. Scored Away	40.7	7.0
Avg. Win Margin Home	26.0	9.0
Avg. Loss Margin Home	9.0	26.0
Avg. Win Margin Away	33.8	0.0
Avg. Loss Margin Away	0.0	33.8

1978 Pointspread

	Home	Away
Actual Record	5-1	4-0
Spread Record	4-2	2-0
Rec. as Favorite	5-1	0-0
Rec. as Underdog	0-0	2-0
Favorite vs. Spread	4-2	0-0
Underdog vs. Spread	0-0	2-0

	OSU		DIFF
Rsh. Att.	638	196	+27
Rsh. Yds.	2933	531	+107
Avg. Rsh.	4.6	1555	+1378
Ps. Comp.	72	2.9	+1.7
Ps. Att.	232	151	-79
Ps. Yds.	1055	258	-26
Had Int.	19	1648	-593
Ret. Yds.	568	19	E
Punts	37-40.3	468	+100
Fum.-lost	22-13	63-40.5	-26, -0.2
Pen.-Yds.	55-573	14-9	+8, +4
		50-464	+5, +109

Points

	OSU	OPP
Avg. Pts. Scored Home	34.7	19.3
Avg. Pts. Scored Away	28.3	14.5
Avg. Win. Margin Home	27.7	19.0
Avg. Loss Margin Home	19.0	27.7
Avg. Win Margin Away	18.3	11.0
Avg. Loss Margin Away	11.0	18.3

1978 Pointspread

	Home	Away
Actual Record	4-1-1	3-1
Spread Record	0-3	1-3
Rec. as Favorite	2-1-1	3-1
Rec. as Underdog	0-0	0-0
Favorite vs. Spread	0-3	1-3
Underdog vs. Spread	0-0	0-0

Last Year's Game Nov. 19, 1977
Substitute tailback Roosevelt Smith ran one yard for a touchdown in the second quarter, quarterback Rick Leach went two yards for a score in the third quarter, and the Wolverine defense yielded only a pair of field goals to the Buckeyes as Michigan defeated Ohio State, 14-6.

Ohio St.	3	0	3	0	— 6
Michigan	0	7	7	0	— 14

	OSU	MICH
1st Downs	23	10
Rushes-Yds	61-208	48-141
Passing Yds.	144	55
Return Yds.	18	19
Passing	13-16-0	3-9-0
Punts	2-39	6-40.1
Fumbles-lost	4-2	1-1
Penalties-Yds.	1-5	1-5

Series Record: Michigan 41-28-5
Last Game: 1977; Michigan* (-1) 14, Ohio St. 6
Columbus is the site of this season's Big Ten title game with a Rose Bowl bid awaiting the winner . . . Undoubtedly the Wolverines are the better football squad as the Buckeyes have definite weaknesses in the secondary and are inexperienced at the quarterback position .
PREDICTION: Michigan 19, Ohio St. 13

WON 24-9

ecord: First Meeting
ot happy with having to play in the Sun Bowl
y really wanted, but we look for Fred Akers'
aryland finished as the runnerup to Clemson
nce games only to Penn State and
h clear defensive units and
individual performers in the likes of Johnny
hael, while the Jones boys — Ham and
way on the stats. The Longhorns also have a
icking machine in Russ Erxleben who holds
AA record. With Erxleben kicking the place-
horns will have excellent field position all after-
sive unit shows the rest. Maryland has been
en forced to put the football in the air and that
again in the Sun Bowl. El Paso, Texas gives the
le home field advantage and their considerable
n the Terrapins.
CTION: Texas 24, Maryland 7

n the home-field advantage will play a particularly
iami wins its last regular season contest versus the
football, then this wild card p ct will be
he Dolphins will
en they must
the enthu of the home-town
d defensive expertise of Bum
a match for any team in the
an epidemic of injuries in
f success in the playoffs
un al we go.
ll, ur erbac nte
ke Sa nebacker
pr d from playing
e receiv Mike Re ro is
Griese and the Dolphin of-
ason while the Miami defense
ame will be largely dependent on
uad A healthy Houston team is
a out of the playoff picture.
ON: Houston 24, Miami 20

WON 20-9

dreams were shattered by their heartbreaking loss in
own w the hottest team in football . . . The
ing Super d Tom y will not
to le Roger Sta will be ing on the
se, as the Jets will not put m ssure on m . . . Matt
d also dent the Cowboy e ome with his arm, but it
t be enough . . . .
PREDICTION: Dallas 28, N.Y. Jets 17

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college football

	PR	OR	DR	WEF

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writing and could wind up on another team. Also on call are Tom Mullen and George Collins, as well as Jack Williams, who returns after missing the '78 season because of injuries. Provided the free agents stick around, the Cards will again boast great blocking power and good depth.

DEFENSE: The Big Red defenders improved almost weekly during the '78 campaign, especially during the second half of the season when the last eight opponents were limited to just 113 points. But in order for the defense to progress and grow even tougher this season, injuries must be avoided, primarily at the linebacking spots, because of the 3-4 setup used by the Cardinals.

In the three-man front wall, the nose tackle is youthful bull Mike Dawson, team leader in QB sacks with nine last year. At 6-4, 275-pounds, Dawson plugs up the middle like a brick wall. Challenging him for that spot will be former Charlie Davis, another bruiser (270-pounds) who missed 15 games in '78 because of injuries.

Crashing in from the line flanks are John Zook and Bob Pollard, who combined for 11 QB sacks last season. Pollard, acquired in a trade with the New Orleans Saints, paced the Big Red down linemen in '78 with 103 total tackles. In reserve at DE are Bob Bell and Ron Yankowski, seasoned veterans with starting experience who should be able to hold things together in the event of injuries to either or both of the regulars.

The old injury bugaboo did its most serious damage at linebacker in '78, a real problem considering the Big Red's switch to a four-man 'backer corps. Tops among this crew in tackles a year ago, Tim Kearney mans one of the inside spots, while the two outside assignments are handled by Mark Arneson and Steve Neils. Others who finished last season healthy, and should help in the future, are Eric Williams, Curtis Townsend and Kurt Allerman. Returning from the ranks of the '78 wounded, and looked to for additional depth at linebacker, are John Barefield, Ray White and Marv Kellum. But, in all honesty, the Cards could still use more in the way of dependable, quality defenders for better play in this area, and it wouldn't be surprising to see some changes made before the coming NFL campaign is over.

On duty in the secondary, the Cards have a group of aggressive ball-hawks, plus pretty good depth, making this the strongest area of the defensive unit. The leader and elder statesman in the deep zones is long-time stalwart Roger Wehrli, one of the NFL's premier cornerbacks. With four pass interceptions in '78, Wehrli moved into the No. 2 all-time spot for the Cards, trailing only Hall-of-Famer Larry Wilson in that category. Carl Allen, who swiped six enemy aerials last season, holds forth at the other corner, and it is his side of the field that sees the most aerial action simply because Wehrli is so tough on the other side. Lee Nelson and Perry Smith provide depth at the corners.

Despite missing the last two games due to injury, free safety Ken Stone led the Cards and the entire NFC with nine pass interceptions in '78. Ken Greene and

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	CARDINALS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	281	285
NET RUSH	1954	2395
Avg Per Game	122	150
NET PASS	3171	2347
Att/Comp	507/252	428/212
Had Int	21	26
Avg Per Game	198	147
PUNTS/AVG	101/37.8	93/39.3
Punts Return/Yds	51/395	59/575
Avg Per Return	7.7	9.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	55/1148	50/1101
Avg Per Return	20.9	22.0
FUMBLES/LOST	28/14	33/16
FIELD GOALS	11/22	13/18
PATS	27/31	35/37
TOTAL POINTS	248	296

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Hart	476/240	18	3121	16
Pisarkiewicz	29/10	3	164	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Tilley	62	900	14.5	3
Gray	44	871	19.9	1
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Stone	9	139	15.4	0
Allen	6	54	9.0	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Otis	197	664	3.4	8
Morris	174	631	3.6	1
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Wood	51	1919	37.6	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Bakken	0	27/31	11/22	60
Otis	8	0/0	0/0	48

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that much stronger.

The Cards used their No. 1 pick in last year's college draft to acquire kicker/punter Steve Little, but he was -- bluntly put -- a "flop" with a 38.0 punting average. By the end of the '78 campaign, free agent Mike Wood had taken away the punting job, averaging 37.6 a kick. Long-time Cardinal standard bearer, Jim Bakken, converted 11 of 22 field goals and 27 of 31 PATs a year ago.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: The Cardinals closed out last year, their first under Bud Wilkinson, with a rush, and they should climb back into the NFC East title picture in '79 if they keep that momentum going. However, it is important to note that 10 members of the team (including starters OC Tom Banks, TE J.V. Cain and Safety Ken Stone) have entered the free agent market, and losing players of that quality could undermine the Big Red's resurgence. Assuming St. Louis will be able to keep the majority of those warriors around, Coach Wilkinson's second year at the helm should result in a better overall showing. Offensively, the passing attack is still the chief method of putting points on the scoreboard -- provided, QB Hart stays fit and healthy. The rushing game will make its contribution, too, especially if potential star Wayne Morris avoids the injuries that have slowed him the past two years. The offensive interior line should remain first-rate, which means capable blocking support up front, so color the attack strong and fairly well-balanced. The defense, while stronger than in the past, still needs more quality at linebacker, although just keeping the players in this area healthy will certainly help. The defensive line and secondary are the most stout-hearted aspects of the stop troops, but again, injuries must be avoided. No question about it, this is a good football team that Bud Wilkinson will lead into the '79 NFL wars, and as such, we look for them to break the .500 barrier. In fact, the Cardinals could very well run No. 2 in their division, behind the Dallas Cowboys of course, which might be good enough to land them in the playoffs as a wild card entry. However, that will only come to pass if the Big Red continue to play with the intensity they did at the end of last season.

Doug Greene, no relation, wound up the campaign starting at the safety spots, and both these second-year pros have excellent potential. Ken Greene led the secondary members in total tackles last season with 74. Rolly Woolsey is on back-up detail at the safeties, and the healthy return of Stone can only make this area

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St. Louis Cardinals Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-1	190	Miami, Fla.
Brown, Theotis	RB	6-3	217	UCLA
Favron, Calvin	LB	6-3	230	SE Louisiana
Bostic, Joe	OT	6-4	260	Clemson
Green, Roy	DB	6-2	200	Henderson St
Henry, Steve	DB	6-1	190	Emporia State
Bell, Mark R.	WR	5-8	171	Colorado St
Lott, Thomas	RB	5-11	180	Oklahoma
Gibson, Kirk	WR	6-2	190	Michigan St
Miller, Larry	LB	6-5	220	Brigham Young
Rozier, Bob	DE	6-3	220	California
Holloway, Jerry	OT	6-4	215	W'tern Illinois
Henderson, Nate	OT	6-4	260	Florida St
McBride, Ricky	LB	6-1	220	Georgia

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Florida St	S Carolina
Georgia	Southern Cal
Georgia Tech	SMU
Houston	Stanford
Illinois	Tennessee
Iowa St	Texas
Kansas	Texas A&M
LSU	TCU
Maryland	Texas Tech
Michigan	UCLA
Michigan St	Vanderbilt
Minnesota	Wake Forest
Mississippi	Washington
Mississippi St	Wisconsin
Missouri	1976 Pittsburgh
Navy	1975 Oklahoma
Nebraska	1969 Tennessee
	1966 Notre Dame

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7	X	8	16	19r	21	7
8	6	11b	X	5	22	8
9	7	X	X	24s	22	9
10	X	16	X	26s	22	10
11	9	X	X		23	11
12	X	X	X	27s	23	12
13	11	15	10	22r	23	13
14		X	9b	27i	24	14
15	16	7a		24r	24	15
16	13	4	15	28i	24	16
17	15		30i	5r	20	17
18			1		12	18

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Washington Redskins

(8-8-0)

That old gang of mine is breaking up in the nation's capital, as second-year Coach Jack Pardee tries to shed the "Over-The-Hill-Gang" image fostered by his predecessor, George Allen. But thanks largely to Allen's "the future is now" philosophy of trading away draft picks for veteran players during his years as head coach and general manager, the Redskins may be fated to struggle through some lean times while Pardee's transition takes place.

Probably the impetus for the decision to shake things up on the 'Skins was the team's collapse at the end of the '78 campaign when they dropped their last five games. That late-season tailspin was an especially bitter pill for Coach Pardee to swallow, since it negated a red-hot start by his gridders that saw them break from the starting blocks with six straight wins before injuries and advancing age took their toll. "We probably weren't good enough to be 6-0," Pardee candidly admits, "but we'll be better in '79 than what we ended up -- I still think we're a playoff contender."

OFFENSE: Landing that playoff berth this year may be a very elusive goal, unless quarterback Joe Theismann -- who took a horrible pounding in '78 because of inadequate blocking -- can finish the campaign in one piece. Theismann, a gutty signal caller, suffered a shoulder separation, knee injury and sundry bruises and contusions last season, yet still managed to hit the target on 187 of 395 passes for 2,593 yards and 13 touchdowns. But the $64 question is how the former Notre Dame and Canadian league star can stand up to the punishment.

Billy Kilmer, 23 of 46 via the air lanes in '78 would probably be first off the bench should a new signal caller be needed. However, the Redskins will also examine ex-Atlanta Falcon Kim McQuilken, who didn't attempt a single forward pass last year after being acquired on waivers.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	HOUSTON
Sep	9	Detroit
Sep	17	NY GIANTS
Sep	23	St. Louis
Sep	30	Atlanta
Oct	7	PHILADELPHIA
Oct	14	Cleveland
Oct	21	Philadelphia
Oct	28	NEW ORLEANS
Nov	4	Pittsburgh
Nov	11	St. Louis
Nov	18	DALLAS
Nov	25	NY Giants
Dec	2	GREEN BAY
Dec	9	CINCINNATI
Dec	16	Dallas

Redskins	1978 Results	Opp
16	at New England	14
35	Philadelphia	30
28	at St. Louis	10
23	N.Y. Jets	3
9	Dallas	5
21	at Detroit	19
10	at Philadelphia	17
6	at N.Y. Giants	17
38	San Francisco	20
17	at Baltimore	21
16	N.Y. Giants	13
17	St. Louis	27
10	at Dallas	37
0	Miami	16
17	at Atlanta	20
10	Chicago	14

The Redskins boast a balanced corps of pass catchers, led by wide receivers Danny Buggs and John McDaniel, who had 36 and 34 catches, respectively, last season and teamed up for six scoring grabs. Another speedster, Ricky Thompson, is the top reserve behind them, having added a career-high 23 receptions of his own in '78. There's also Terry Anderson and Frank Grant, the latter a one-time starter for the 'Skins who was hobbled by injuries last year.

Galloping out of the tight end spot is Jean Fugett, a steady veteran who led the team in touchdown catches (six) and snagged 25 aerials altogether in '78 despite injury problems. There would be genuine concern if Fugett sustained an injury of long-term nature, because his back-up at tight end, Reggie Haynes, lacks experience.

The mainstay in the rushing attack is 230-pounder John Riggins, who crunched over enemy defenders for 1,014 yards and five TDs on 248 attempts last season. That was the second time in his pro career that Riggins topped 1,000-yards on the ground, having notched 1,005 back in '75 while a member of the NY Jets.

Operating out of the other running back slot most of last season was speedy Mike Thomas, who motored for 534 yards on 160 sorties. However, there's very little chance Thomas, now a free agent, will play with the 'Skins again in '79. Should Thomas take his many talents and his many moods elsewhere, those in line for his old spot are Benny Malone, Tony Green, Ike Forte and Clarence Harmon.

Malone, a former Miami Dolphin regular, has the best shot at nailing down the starting assignment, although the diminutive Green (5-9, 185) could be a surprise. Last season, as a rookie, Green ranked among the NFC leaders in both punt (10.5 yard average; 80-yard touchdown) and kickoff returns (25.6 average; 99-yard TD).

The area of the offense held most accountable for last year's erratic attack was the offensive interior line. Injuries had something to do with the front wall's problems, but generally speaking, this unit really needs to suck it up and start going after opponents with a vengeance.

At center, Bob Kuziel is the regular, with support from Ted Fritsch, who handles the snapping duties on kick attempts. Filling the guard holes are Ron Saul and Dan Nugent, while George Starke and Terry Hermeling are expected to man the tackles. Starke, the finest blocker up front, missed the second half of last season because of an injury, and his absence had a great deal to do with the break-down in the front wall. Jeff Williams, Jim Harlan and ex-NY Giant Mike Gibbons supply so-so depth at the tackles, with Fred Dean backstopping at guard. Another outbreak of injuries in the line could prove fatal because reserve strength looks less than adequate -- and that's a kind way to put it!

DEFENSE: The Redskins are anticipating changes in their defensive unit, which broke down at the end of last season when signs of aging really started

Washington Redskins Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Warren, Don	TE	6-4	230	San Diego St
Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	225	Penn State
Haines, Kris	WR	6-0	181	Notre Dame
Coleman, Monte	LB	6-3	220	Arkansas Cent
Hall, Tony	WR	6-1	190	Knoxville

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to show in some areas. But unless that transition from the old to the new can be made quickly and smoothly, the 'Skins may be more vulnerable than at any time in the recent past.

Up front, in the defensive line, the two players most secure are tackle Dave Butz and end Coy Bacon. A year ago, the 285-pound Butz led the down linemen in tackles on his way to earning team defensive MVP honors, while Bacon was the top QB sacker on the Redskins with 12.

It's really a guessing game as to which players will start at the other two up-front spots. But our "educated" guess is that, after the smoke has cleared, those spots will be filled by tackle Diron Talbert and end Joe "Turkey" Jones. Jones, acquired in a trade for a future draft choice (doesn't that sound familiar, Washington fans?), is a former regular with the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns.

Others in the running for playing time in the front four are flankmen Karl Lorch and Dallas Hickman, along with tackles Perry Brooks, Bob Heinz and Bill Brundige. However, the 'Skins have been signing free agents faster than the U.S. Treasury can pump out dollar bills, so the pit returnees better stay on their toes.

Yet another area of the defense where change is expected is the linebacking, since long-time stalwart Chris Hanburger may be going his separate way. If that proves to be true, the 'Skins will have to find a new partner for their other outside 'backer, Brad Dusek, an underrated defender and the leading tackler on the team the past two years. First in line for a crack at the other outside past should Hanburger ship out is Pete Wysocki, but those are some mighty big shoes he'll have to fill. Harold McClinton once again holds forth in the middle, with relief help from veteran Mike Curtis and Don Hover.

In the secondary, leading the way is strong safety Ken Houston, one of the premier defensive backs in NFL history. Last season, Houston was selected to the Pro Bowl for the 11th consecutive year, most for any active player. However, the Redskins may be in the market for a new free safety since '78 regular Jake Scott is still another of the disgruntled veterans who may be making his home in another NFL city this year. Mark Murphy and Don Harris are the players presently on the roster who will vie for the free safety spot if it becomes vacant. But, again, filling Scott's very large shoes should he go elsewhere will not be an easy task.

On the prowl at the cornerback positions are Joe Lavender and Lemar Parrish, the latter back in tow after sitting out the last five games of '78 with an injury. Gerard Williams, who filled in

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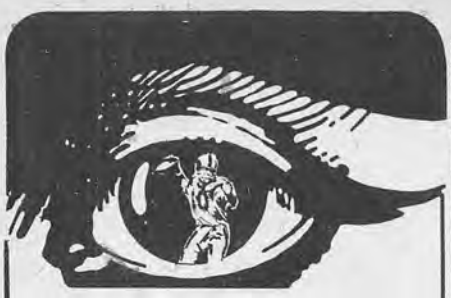

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1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Theismann	395/187	18	2593	13
Kilmer	46/23	3	316	4
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Buggs	36	575	16.0	2
Thomas	35	387	11.1	2
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Scott	7	72	10.3	0
Williams	4	51	12.8	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Riggins	248	1014	4.1	5
Thomas	160	534	3.3	3
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Bragg	103	4056	39.4	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Moseley	0	30/31	19/30	87
Fugett	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	REDSKINS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	261	283
NET RUSH	2083	2536
Avg Per Game	130.2	158.5
NET PASS	2565	2378
Att/Comp	443/212	409/197
Had Int	21	22
Avg Per Game	160.3	148.6
PUNTS/AVG	103-39.4	104-37.3
Punts Return/Yds	54/527	49/328
Avg Per Return	9.8	6.7
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	58/1352	55/965
Avg Per Return	23.3	17.5
FUMBLES/LOST	31/16	20/10
FIELD GOALS	19/30	24/34
PATS	30/31	29/30
TOTAL POINTS	273	283

when Parrish was hurt, did manage to intercept four passes last season but he gets beat far too often -- and when you get "beat" in the defensive secondary, it often means six points for the opposition.

When it comes to placement kicking, the Redskins have one of the finest in Mark Moseley, who drilled 30 to 31 extra points and 19 of 30 field goals for 87 points last season. That was the fifth year in a row Moseley scored over 80 points, and entering the '79 campaign, he has a string of 30 consecutive extra point conversions. Mike Bragg, who averaged 39.4 yards a boot and rolled 23 kicks dead inside the 20-yard line, is in charge of the punting.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Last season, Coach Pardee's first edition of Redskins started the campaign like a house on fire but fizzled out down the backstretch when injuries, age and a balky offense proved their undoing. Trying to keep the attack running on high-octane throughout the coming NFL campaign will be Joe Theismann, not the

Washington Redskins 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
81	Anderson, Terry	WR	5-9	182	24	3	Bethune-Cookman	10
80	Bacon, Coy	DE	6-4	265	34	12	Jackson State	16
4	Bragg, Mike	P	5-11	186	33	12	Richmond	16
69	Brooks, Perry	DT	6-3	260	25	2	Southern	16
77	Brundige, Bill	DT	6-5	270	31	9	Colorado	0
88	Buggs, Danny	WR	6-2	185	26	5	West Virginia	13
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	285	29	7	Purdue	16
32	Curtis, Mike	LB	6-2	232	36	15	Duke	13
63	Dean, Fred	G	6-3	253	24	3	Texas Southern	8
59	Dusek, Brad	LB	6-2	214	29	6	Texas A & M	16
30	Forte, Ike	HB	6-0	196	25	4	Arkansas	13
66	Fritsch, Ted	C/G	6-2	242	29	8	St. Norbert	16
84	Fugett, Jean	TE	6-4	230	28	8	Amherst	14
	Gibbons, Mike	T/G	6-4	262	28	3	SW Oklahoma St.	0
34	Green, Tony	HB	5-9	185	23	2	Florida	16
55	Hanburger, Chris	LB	6-2	218	38	15	North Carolina	16
68	Harlan, Jim	T	6-4	250	25	2	Howard Payne	14
38	Harmon, Clarence	FB	5-11	190	24	3	Mississippi State	16
26	Harris, Don	SS	6-2	185	25	2	Rutgers	16
89	Haynes, Reggie	TE	6-2	229	25	2	Nevada-Las Vegas	14
76	Heinz, Bob	DT	6-6	268	32	10	Pacific	2
75	Hermeling, Terry	T	6-5	255	33	10	Nevada-Reno	16
82	Hickman, Dallas	L B / D E	6-6	235	27	4	Berkeley	16
27	Houston, Ken	SS	6-3	198	35	13	Prairie View	16
58	Hover, Don	LB	6-2	222	25	2	Washington State	16
17	Kilmer, Billy	QB	6-0	204	40	17	UCLA	5
54	Kuziel, Bob	C	6-5	255	29	5	Pittsburgh	16
20	Lavender, Joe	CB	6-4	190	30	7	San Diego State	16
71	Lorch, Karl	DE	6-3	258	29	4	Southern California	16
25	Malone, Benny	HB	5-10	193	27	6	Arizona State	9
86	McDaniel, John	WR	6-1	197	28	6	Lincoln	15
79	McDole, Ron	DE	6-4	265	40	19	Nebraska	16
53	McLinton, Harold	LB	6-2	235	32	11	Southern	16
11	McQuilken, Kim	QB	6-3	203	28	6	Lehigh	0
3	Moseley, Mark	K	6-0	205	31	8	Stephen F. Austin	16
29	Murphy, Mark	FS	6-4	210	24	3	Colgate	16
62	Nugent, Dan	G	6-3	250	26	4	Auburn	16
24	Parrish, Lemar	CB	5-10	183	32	10	Lincoln	11
44	Riggins, John	FB	6-2	230	30	9	Kansas	15
64	Saul, Ron	G	6-3	254	31	10	Michigan State	15
13	Scott, Jake	FB	6-0	188	34	10	Georgia	16
74	Starke, George	T	6-5	250	31	7	Columbia	9
72	Talbert, Diron	DT	6-5	255	33	13	Texas	12
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	6-0	190	30	6	Notre Dame	16
22	Thomas, Mike	HB	5-11	190	26	5	Nevada-Las Vegas	13
83	Thompson, Ricky	WR	6-0	170	25	4	Baylor	16
45	Williams, Gerard	CB	6-1	184	27	4	Langston	16
73	Williams, Jeff	T	6-4	255	24	2	Rhode Island	7
50	Wysocki, Pete	LB	6-1	224	31	4	Western Michigan	16

most artistic signal caller around, but then, neither was Billy Kilmer in his prime. Speaking of Kilmer, he and McQuilken don't offer much in the way of back-up insurance at QB, so it's vital that Theismann (bumps, contusions and all) hang in there again. The receiving corps, while not trouble-free, should hold up its end of the aerial attack, although the Redskins could use a "long distance" threat on the order of retired great Charley Taylor. Fullback Riggins will be the mainstay in the rushing attack and, quite honestly, we doubt Mike Thomas will be missed that much because the remaining ball toters should be able to compensate. The offensive interior line, which blocked like a piece of swiss cheese at times last season, will rebound with a better showing -- but only if the troops up front stay injury-free! Much the same can be said about almost every area of the defense, where there's very good potential, provided injuries are held down. Coach Pardee took on quite an undertaking when he signed with the Redskins, because after last year's performance, it seems all too obvious this team is in need of drastic change. The problem, as everyone knows, is that the logical avenue to rebuilding (the annual college draft) is pretty much off-limits to the Redskins because of the deals made by George (Who Cares About The Future!) Allen. So, while we look for the Redskins to hang tough and pull off their share of surprises this season, we anticipate Washington will finish no better than fourth in the NFC East standings.

STOP TREADING WATER — GET WITH SPORTS REPORTER. SEE PAGE 65

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New York Giants

(6-10-0)

The Giants will be sailing into this season with a new captain at the helm, Head Coach Ray Perkins, and a new admiral up on the bridge, General Manager George Young. Their mission is to chart a winning course for the dry-docked Giants, once the flag-ship team of the entire NFL fleet -- but a club that played at times last season with all the finesse of McHale's Navy.

For instance, who could ever forget THE FUMBLE in last year's meeting with AFC East rival Philadelphia. When a missed handoff by quarterback Joe Pisarcik in the waning seconds of the game was scooped up by an Eagles defender and carried in for the winning touchdown. Later, watching that play again on video tape, you just got this "gut feeling" that for John McVay and Andy Robustelli, head coach and GM at that time, their days were numbered with the Giants.

That hunch proved to be 100 percent correct, with both of them getting the gate at season's end, to be replaced by the new regime of Coach Perkins and GM Young. The 37-year-old Perkins, formerly an offensive assistant with San Diego and New England, was hired because of his ability to put together a potent and exciting attack force. And "excitement" is one thing the plod-along Giant offense sure could use a large helping of!

OFFENSE: Lighting the spark under the attack force will be quarterback Pisarcik and, while he got a lot of heat last year because of his crucial role in THE FUMBLE, he's really not that far from being a decent pro signal caller. Via the passing lanes in '78, Pisarcik was accurate on 143 of 301 attempts for 2,096 yards, with 12 of those aerials going for scores. He also surrendered 23 interceptions and got sacked 28 times, but given better blocking protection and a more reliable corps of receivers, Pisarcik has the talent to reduce those figures.

Lining up behind him at the QB spot are Jerry Golsteyn, Randy Dean and Fred Besana. Golsteyn is the finest pure passer among the quarterbacks, but he's yet to play a full season without getting hurt, while Dean is a nifty scrambler who got his first starting assignment last season in game no. 15, helping the Giants to a 17-0 win over St. Louis.

The one thing the passing attack needs most is a receiver who's a consistent long-distance scoring threat, a role that starting wideouts Jimmy Robinson and Johnny Perkins have yet to fill despite 32 catches each in '78. Perkins is a 4.5 flash who had the longest touchdown reception last season with a 67-yarder against Tampa Bay, but the gutty Robinson outdid him in per-catch average with a 19.4 yard norm.

With a new coaching staff on hand, other wide receiving prospects certain to get a try-out are Emery Moorehead, James Thompson, Brian DeRoo, Ernie Pough and free agent signee Larry Jones. Moorehead and DeRoo both missed time last year with injuries but they were impressive when healthy.

There's a real ding-dong battle shaping up for starting rights at tight end, pitting '78 regular Al Dixon, Gary Shirk and free agent acquisition James Thaxton. Dixon,

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Philadelphia
Sep	9	ST. LOUIS
Sep	17	Washington
Sep	23	PHILADELPHIA
Sep	30	New Orleans
Oct	7	TAMPA BAY
Oct	14	SAN FRANCISCO
Oct	21	Kansas City
Oct	28	Los Angeles
Nov	4	DALLAS
Nov	11	ATLANTA
Nov	18	Tampa Bay
Nov	25	WASHINGTON
Dec	2	Dallas
Dec	9	St. Louis
Dec	16	BALTIMORE

N.Y. Giants 1978 Results		Opp
19	at Tampa Bay	13
24	Dallas	34
26	Kansas City	10
27	San Francisco	10
20	at Atlanta	23
3	at Dallas	24
17	Tampa Bay	14
17	Washington	6
17	at New Orleans	28
10	at St. Louis	20
13	at Washington	16
17	Philadelphia	19
17	at Buffalo	41
17	Los Angeles	20
17	St. Louis	0
3	at Philadelphia	20

New York Giants 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN'78
77	Archer, Troy	DT	6-4	250	24	4	Colorado	10
73	Bain, Bill	OT	6-4	270	27	5	USC	0
60	Benson, Brad	C	6-3	258	24	2	Penn State	16
17	Besana, Fred	QB	6-4	205	26	2	California	0
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	235	26	4	South Carolina St.	16
56	Clack, Jim	C	6-3	250	32	9	Wake Forest	16
59	Coffield, Randy	LB	6-3	215	26	4	Florida State	2
18	Danelo, Joe	K	5-9	166	26	5	Washington State	16
15	Dean, Randy	QB	6-3	195	24	3	Northwestern	6
84	Dixon, Al	TE	6-5	220	25	3	Iowa State	15
35	Doornink, Dan	RB	6-3	210	23	2	Washington State	12
12	Golsteyn, Jerry	QB	6-4	210	25	3	Northern Illinois	7
71	Gravelle, Gordon	T	6-5	252	30	8	Brigham Young	16
81	Gregory, Jack	DE	6-5	250	35	13	Delta State	16
33	Hammond, Bob	RB	5-10	170	27	4	Morgan State	14
24	Jackson, Terry	DB	5-10	197	24	2	San Diego State	15
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	205	27	6	St. Lawrence	16
70	Jeter, Gary	DT	6-4	260	24	3	Southern Cal.	13
31	Jones, Ernie	S	6-3	180	26	4	Miami (Fla.)	16
20	Jones, Larry	WR	5-10	170	28	6	N.E. Missouri St.	0
55	Kelley, Brian	LB	6-3	222	28	7	Cal Lutheran	16
72	King, Gordon	T	6-6	275	23	2	Stanford	11
44	Kotar, Doug	RB	5-11	205	28	6	Kentucky	15
74	Krahl, Jim	DT	6-5	252	26	2	Texas Tech	16
78	Leavitt, Dick	T	6-3	280	26	3	Bowdoin	0
54	Lloyd, Dan	LB	6-2	225	26	4	Washington	26
34	Mallory, Larry	S	5-11	185	27	4	Tennessee State	16
51	Marion, Frank	LB	6-3	228	28	3	Florida A&M	16
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	245	26	5	Oregon	16
36	Maxson, Alvin	RB	6-0	205	28	6	SMU	1
23	McKinney, Odis	DB	6-2	187	22	2	Colorado	14
64	Mendenhall, John	DT	6-1	255	31	8	Grambling	16
62	Mikolajczyk, Ron	T	6-3	275	29	4	Tampa	8
80	Moorehead, Emery	WR	6-2	210	25	3	Colorado	10
86	Perkins, Johnny	WR	6-2	205	26	3	Abilene Christian	14
76	Pietrzak, Jim	T-C	6-5	260	26	3	Eastern Michigan	16
9	Pisarcik, JOe	QB	6-4	220	27	3	New Mexico State	16
82	Pough, Ernie	WR	6-1	174	27	3	Texas Southern	12
28	Reece, Beasley	S	6-1	195	25	4	North Texas State	8
22	Rhodes, Ray	CB	5-11	185	29	6	Tulsa	13
85	Robinson, Jimmy	WR	5-9	170	26	4	Georgia Tech	16
87	Shirk, Gary	TE	6-1	220	29	4	Morehead State	16
57	Skorupan, John	LB	6-3	225	28	7	Penn State	16
27	Spencer, Willie	RB	6-4	235	26	4	No College	15
38	Taylor, Billy	RB	6-0	215	23	2	Texas Tech	13
83	Thaxton, James	TE	6-3	240	30	6	Tennessee State	0
89	Thompson, James	WR	6-0	178	26	2	Memphis State	13
52	Tierney, Leo	C	6-3	248	25	2	Georgia Tech	5
68	Turner, J.T.	G	6-3	250	26	3	Duke	16
25	Tyler, Maurice	S	6-1	194	29	8	Morgan State	8
63	Van Horn, Doug	T	6-3	245	35	13	Ohio State	16
10	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	28	7	Michigan State	14

who averaged a team-high 20.9 yards per catch and scored three times on 18 catches last season, is a gifted athlete whose only weakness is his susceptibility to injuries. Shirk is a powerful blocker but lacking in quickness, while Thaxton is a much-traveled veteran who last played with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Balance is the by-word in the rushing attack, which didn't have a single ball toter in the league's top thirty last year, yet the Giants finished with the fifth best rushing average in the National Conference. The top honcho in '78 was dependable, though often overlooked, Doug Kotar, who rambled for 625 yards on 149 carries. Second to him was Bobby Hammond, who darted for 554 yards, and he's also the best kick returner on the team.

What the Giants need to balance out the quickness of Kotar and Hammond is a strong inside runner who can get the tough yardage up-the-gut. Larry Csonka, who never did live up to expectations, tried to fill that bill, as did 240-pounder Willie Spencer. Csonka, of course, is no longer with the team, having signed on again with the Miami Dolphins, and Spencer's 1.6 yard rushing average in '78 indicates he may not be around much longer either. Dan Doornink and Billy Taylor, who plowed for an aggregate 556 yards last year as rookies, demonstrated good potential, although both need to stay healthier.

Up front in the offensive interior line, the Giants are slowly putting together a rugged blocking brigade, and the only thing that remains now is keeping this unit free of injuries. Snapping the ball is veteran center Jim Clack, a '78 trade acquisition from the Pittsburgh Steelers. His arrival had a very positive effect on the whole front wall. Jim Pietrzak, who can also play tackle, and Leo Tierney supply depth at the pivot spot.

Plugging one guard hole is Doug Van Horn, with promising J.T. Turner opposite him, although pushing both will be Brad Benson, who played at tackle last year when injuries cut down both regulars, Ron Mikolajczyk and Gordon King. King, the Giants' No. 1 pick in last year's college draft, and Mikolajczyk are both mended and ready to go again, and with Benson moving back to a more natural guard spot, the chief reserve at tackle will be veteran Gordon Gravelle. Also tossing their hats in the ring will be free agent Bill Bain, formerly with Green Bay and Denver, along with Dick Leavitt, injured in '78.

DEFENSE: Last year, the backbone of the Giants was expected to be their strong defensive unit. But, horror of horrors, the Giant "D" finished dead last among NFC teams in both total defense and rushing defense -- partly due to injuries and partly due to erratic play.

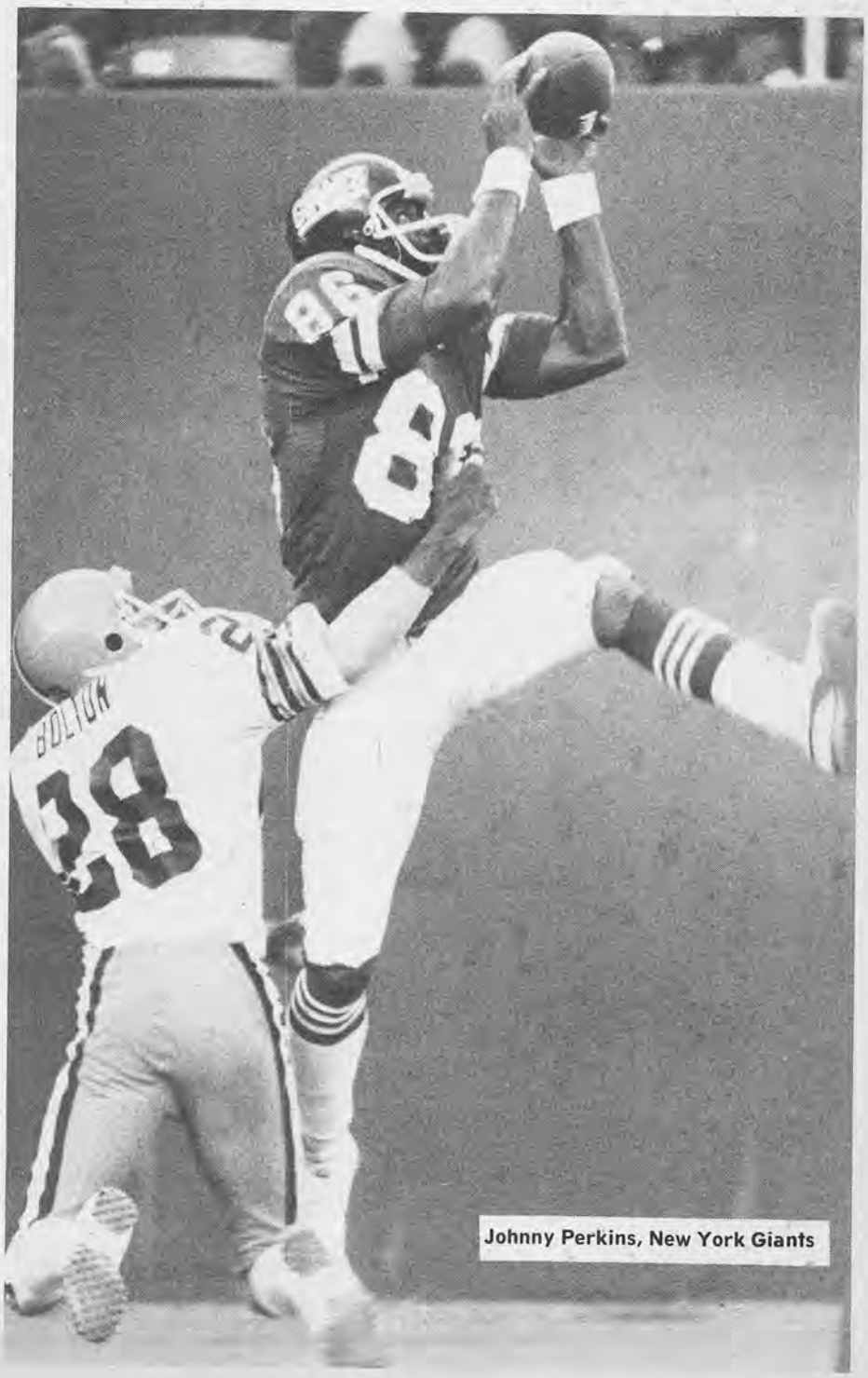
Up front, the steadiest performer is flankman George Martin, who paced the Giants in QB sacks with 10 last season, and scored the second touchdown of his pro career on a lateral after a blocked field goal attempt. His compadre at the other flank spot, 14-year veteran Jack Gregory, has lost some of the quickness so essential to his playing style, resulting in just 2½ sacks for him in '78. His eventual replacement, perhaps this season, should be Gary Jeter, a slow developer so far but blessed with the size and quickness to be a man-eating pass rusher.

At the tackles, John Mendenhall is stationed on one side, and he's a terror when he plays with intensity all the time. There could be a battle for the other starting tackle job, pitting Troy Archer against Jim Krahl. Archer, a superb defender with All-Pro potential, was below-par most of last season with an injury (broken foot) which caused him to miss the first nine games. Krahl was impressive as a fill-in, playing in all 16 games.

The strongest area on defense is the linebacking, where laying the wood to enemy ball toters are Pro Bowlers Harry Carson (middle) and Brad Van Pelt (outside). Both these hard-hitting standouts ranked among the leading tacklers on the Giants last season. They also tied for second on the team with three pass interceptions each.

The third starting 'backer is Brian Kelley, a steady, six-year veteran. Providing depth at linebacker are Dan Lloyd, John Skorupan, Frank Marion and Randy Coffield. Lloyd is a brutal tackler nicknamed "Spaceman" by his teammates, possibly because when he blasts enemy ball carriers they go into orbit.

Last season, despite three new starters patrolling the secondary, the Giants improved considerably in pass defense. Foremost of the newcomers, and a potential all-star if he keeps improving,



Johnny Perkins, New York Giants

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1975 Topps (528)	18.00 ppd.
1974 Topps (528)	22.00 ppd.
1973 Topps (528)	24.50 ppd.
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	GIANTS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	246	316
NET RUSH	2304	2656
Avg Per Game	144.0	166.0
NET PASS	2145	2386
Att/Comp	382/176	443/210
Had Int	27	21
Avg Per Game	134.1	149.1
PUNTS/AVG	95/42.1	90/37.1
Punts Return/Yds	48/274	61/624
Avg Per Return	5.7	10.2
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	60/1081	55/1197
Avg Per Return	18.0	21.8
FUMBLES/LOST	23/12	34/18
FIELD GOALS	21/29	12/26
PATS	27/29	32/38
TOTAL POINTS	264	298

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Pisarcik	301/143	23	2096	12
Dean	39/19	3	188	1
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Robinson	32	620	19.4	2
Perkins	32	514	16.1	3
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Jackson	7	115	16.4	1
Carson	3	86	29.7	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Kotar	149	625	4.2	1
Hammond	131	554	4.2	1
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Jennings	95	3995	37.1	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Danelo	0	27/29	21/29	90
Csonka	6	0/0	0/0	36

New York Giants Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Simms, Phil	QB	6-2	190	Morehead St
Gray, Ernest	WR	6-2	185	Memphis St
Tabor, Phil	DE	6-4	240	Oklahoma
Jackson, Cleveland	TE	6-4	225	Nevada-LV
Torrey, Bob	RB	6-3	228	Penn State
Hicks, Eddie	RB	6-2	200	East Carolina
Alvers, Steve	TE	6-4	240	Miami, Fla.
Perry, D.K.	DB	6-3	180	S'thern Meth
Simmons, Roy	OG	6-3	277	Georgia Tech
Rusk, Tom	LB	6-1	220	Iowa
Fowler, Dan	OG	6-5	246	Kentucky
Mince, Mike	DB	6-2	190	Fresno State
Johnson, Ken	RB	6-3	203	Miami, Fla.
Gillespie, Tim	OG	6-4	235	North Carolina St

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"MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SPORTS OPINIONS"

is cornerback Terry Jackson. As a mere rookie in '78, Jackson led the Giants with seven pass thefts, one of which he ran back for a touchdown, and showed a willingness to stick his nose in on running plays as well. Protecting the opposite corner is Ray Rhodes, who came up with three interceptions last season.

The other two '78 newcomers who wound up starting were free safety Ernie Jones and strong safety Beasley Reece. Odis McKinney, who filled in during the latter part of the '78 campaign when Reece was injured, was so impressive he will be hard to dislodge. Also on call in the deep zones are Larry Mallory and Maurice Tyler.

Probably the strongest single aspect of the Giants is their kicking game, featuring punter Dave Jennings and placement specialist Joe Danelo. Last season, on his way to earning a Pro Bowl berth, Jennings averaged 42.1 yards on 95 boots. Danelo converted 27 of 29 PATs and 21 of 29 field goals for a total of 90 points. He will enter this season with a string of 17 consecutive games in which he's kicked at least one field goal.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: There was quite a bit of squabbling between team owners Wellington Mara and his nephew, Tim, before they finally settled on the George Young-Ray Perkins tandem to turn the Giants' fortunes around. But, in the end, their selections may prove to be excellent ones. On offense, new skipper Perkins first must solidify the quarterbacking, a spot which Pisarcik appears to have a "lock" on as long as he stays healthy. Provided the offensive interior line stays healthy enough to supply adequate pass protection, Pisarcik will be pitching to a corps of good pass receivers whose only shortcoming is the lack of a long-range scoring threat. The rushing attack boasts the quickness for a good outside running game with Kotar and Hammond leading the way. But a "belter" is needed to fuel the inside ground game. The Giants were a disappointment defensively last season, but with Archer and several others healthy again this unit will be much tougher to make headway against. Overall, this is a young team Ray Perkins inherits, but their potential bodes well for the future. However, the best we can see for the '79 Giants is a break-even record, provided the "Mara Men" stop playing the brand of shoddy, give-away game that hurt them so badly last season.

Who Beat The Vegas Spread 71% Of The Time? See Page 5

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NFC CENTRAL

Walter Payton, Chicago Bears

Detroit Lions

(7-9-0)

Like those bloodied but never-say-die legions in the "Charge of the Light Brigade," the Lions went on the attack last season just when things were looking their worst. Following a dismal 1-6 start, Coach Monte Clark's first edition of Motor City gridders rebounded with victories in six of their last nine games -- including season-ending demolitions of the playoff-bound Minnesota Vikings (45-14) and San Francisco (33-14).

So it's only natural that the Lions are approaching the '79 NFL campaign with a certain amount of optimism. But Coach Clark himself is the first to admit the rebuilding project in Detroit is not quite complete: "It's great to have confidence, but we don't want to create a false confidence."

It was no mere coincidence that last year's about-face by the Lions coincided nicely with the emergence of defensive end Al Baker and quarterback Gary Danielson. More about "Bubba" Baker later, but as for Danielson, he was the spark that ignited the offense in '78, making it one of the most varied and potent attacks in the league.

OFFENSE: Once he got his footing a year ago, Danielson came on strong to finish with 199 pass completions on 351 attempts (56 percent) for 2,294 yards and 18 touchdowns. The high-water mark for Danielson in '78 came in game no. 15, when he bombarded the Minnesota Vikings for 352 yards (26 of 33 completions) and five touchdowns -- the best one-game performance in pro football last season.

Entering his fourth NFL season, Danielson is a strong-armed passer who can also run with the pigskin, the latter attribute coming in mighty handy since the Lion offensive line is still in the developmental stage. Providing veteran depth at the signal calling spot is Greg Landry. Landry is a 12-year pro who completed 62 percent of his aerial attempts (48-77) last season but lost the starting job because of his lack of mobility, which resulted in 21 sacks in '78.

The passcatching contingent is headlined by tight end David Hill, a Pro Bowl selection last year when he paced the Lions with 53 receptions for 633 yards and four touchdowns. Supplying depth at tight end is second-year pro Bill Gay, a rugged blocker who needs work on his pass catching.

Scampering out of the two wide receiving spots are Fred Scott and Luther Blue, who snagged 37 and 31 aerials, respectively, last season. There's also excellent depth at the wideouts in Jesse Thompson and Leonard Thompson, who combined for 28 catches in '78 and had four scoring catches each to tie with tight end Hill for the leadership in TD grabs.

The passing attack is complemented by a powerful rushing game, spearheaded by swiftee Dexter Bussey, who rambled for 924 yards and scored fiv times on 225 attempts last season. His running mate, Horace King, is a tough ball toter who smashed for 660 yards and caught 48 passes (second on the team) in '78.

Burly Lawrence Gaines, who hammered out 178 yards a year ago, is the top honcho in reserve at running back. What made Gaines' performance most notable was the fact he came back from three knee operations the year before. Also on hand is Rick Kane, bothered by injuries in '78 but still a tough ball toter when he's right.

Coach Clark's major undertaking has been to re-shape the offensive interior line, where guard Lynn Boden was the only holdover to retain his starting job last year. Matched with him at the other guard is Homer Elias, while plugged in between them at center is Larry Tearry. Both Elias and Tearry claimed starting jobs as rookies in '78. Supplying back-up support in the middle of the front wall are Karl Chandler, Donnie Hickman, Amos Fowler and Mark Markovich, the latter a '78 injured reserve casualty.

Outside at the tackle berths, holding forth are two more relative young 'uns, Karl Baldischwiler and Brad Oates. However, depth behind them will be a problem unless three players out last season due to injuries can rebound -- Russ Bolinger, Howard Fest and Dave Simonson.

DEFENSE: Any mention of the defensive unit has to start with "Bubba" Baker, who protects one line flank. Last year, his first in the NFL, Baker was a one-man pass rush with 23 sacks -- and he also caused about twice that many hurried throws as enemy quarterbacks unloaded early to avoid being "Bubba-sized."

Baker anchors what is a fairly young, though rugged, defensive line, with the flank spot opposite him up-for-grabs between Dave Pureifory and Ken Sanders. Pureifory inherited the starting job seven games into last season when Sanders fell victim to injuries, but the latter is recovered and anxious to re-claim his position.

The Lions boast great strength in the middle of the front wall, where youthful play-wreckers Doug English and John Woodcock are stationed. Last season, they played tough defense against the run and teamed up for 18½ quarterbacks sacks, with English earning an invite to the Pro Bowl for his outstanding work.

1979 Schedule

Sep	1	Tampa Bay
Sep	9	WASHINGTON
Sep	16	New York Jets
Sep	23	ATLANTA
Sep	30	MINNESOTA
Oct	7	New England
Oct	14	Green Bay
Oct	21	New Orleans
Oct	28	BUFFALO
Nov	4	Chicago
Nov	11	TAMPA BAY
Nov	18	Minnesota
Nov	22	CHICAGO
Dec	2	Philadelphia
Dec	9	MIAMI
Dec	15	GREEN BAY

Lions	1978 Results	Opp
7	Green Bay	13
15	at Tampa Bay	7
0	Chicago	19
16	at Seattle	28
14	at Green Bay	35
19	Washington	21
0	at Atlanta	14
31	San Diego	14
21	at Chicago	17
7	at Minnesota	17
34	Tampa Bay	23
17	at Oakland	29
17	Denver	14
14	at St. Louis	21
45	Minnesota	14
33	San Francisco	14

Detroit Lions Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Dorney, Keith	OT	6-5	260	Penn State
Fantetti, Ken	LB	6-2	225	Wyoming
Robinson, Bo	RB	6-3	215	West Texas St
Norris, Ulysses	TE	6-4	220	Georgia
Brooks, Jonathan	LB	6-3	220	Clemson
Brown, Walt	C	6-5	223	Pittsburgh
Komlo, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	Delaware
Cole, Eddie	LB	6-2	226	Mississippi
Forster, Bob	C-OG	6-3	205	Brown
Sweeney, Bryan	WR	6-1	185	Texas A&I

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OUR COLLEGE PI WON 4 out of top 5
TOP 3 SWEPT

THE BEAT GO OUR COLLEG TOP 5: 15-4-1 (p
Top Pros Ro Seattle & De

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OUR OPENING WEE 9-4-1 VS

Pros Last Wee SWEPT 5 of 5 THAT'S 9-1 PAST WEEKS - 90%! A 22-4 OVERAL

OUR COLLEGE PIX: WON 4 out of top 5!! 4 of past 5 wks!
THE BEAT GOES ON OUR COLLEGE PIX: TOP 5: 23-6-1 (past 6 wks
Last Week: 7 of 8

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Bill Cooke and Dan Gray, both of whom can also fill-in at flank spots, were the primary back-ups at tackle last season. However, the reserve strength up front would benefit greatly if Larry Hand and Dave Gallagher lend a hand after missing the '78 action because of physical ailments.

At linebacker, the Lions intend to rotate four veteran defenders with a combined 34 years of NFL experience. In the middle is Ed O'Neil, who enjoyed a fine year in '78, finishing second on the team in pass interceptions with four. Alternating at the two outside 'backer spots will be Paul Naumoff, Charlie Weaver and Dave Washington, all of them battle-toughened performers. The other veteran returnee at linebacker, Tony Daykin, is a Special Teams standout who can fill in at either outside spot, but depth in the middle is very weak.

The secondary looked like a hospital emergency room last season, with players going down left and right with injuries. As a consequence, enemy passers riddled the '78 Lions for 19 touchdowns despite the savage "Bubba" Baker-led pass rush of the front four. But this year, opposition passers will find the going a lot tougher if the secondary cast stays healthy and young ball-hawks like Luther Bradley continue developing.

Cornerback Bradley, the Lions' first selection in last year's college draft, wound up with three pass interceptions in '78, returning one 76-yards for a touchdown, and he's got a bright future as a pro. Rounding out what is a superior cast of cornerbacks, providing they all stay healthy, are Walt Williams, James Hunter, Tony Leonard and Levi Johnson.

On duty at free safety is ex-Pittsburgh Steeler Jimmy Allen, who in his first season with the Lions, led the team with five pass interceptions. Pressing him will be former regular Lem Barney, sidelined by injury last year. The strong safety spot is filled by Mike Burns, with support from Bruce Rhodes.

One aspect of the team Coach Monte Clark won't have to concern himself with much is the kicking. Punter Tom Skladany hoisted 86 kicks for an NFC-high 42.5 yard average last season, and he's one of the best young kicking prospects in the NFL. No slouch, either, is placekicker Benny Ricardo, who hit on 32-33 PATs and 20-28 field goals in '78 and

Detroit Lions 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN'78
40	Allen, Jimmy	DB	6-2	195	27	6	UCLA	14
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	260	23	2	Colorado State	16
76	Baldischwiler, Karl	T	6-5	265	23	2	Oklahoma	16
	Black, Stan	DB	6-0	195	24	3	Mississippi State	0
89	Blue, Luther	WR	5-11	180	24	3	Iowa State	16
62	Boden, Lynn	G	6-5	260	26	5	Dakota State	16
73	Bolinger, Russ	T	6-5	250	25	3	Long Beach State	0
27	Bradley, Luther	DB	6-2	195	24	2	Notre Dame	16
29	Burns, Mike	DB	6-0	180	25	3	Southern Cal.	15
24	Bussey, Dexter	RB	6-1	195	27	6	Texas-Arlington	16
31	Callicutt, Ken	RB	6-0	190	24	2	Clemson	13
66	Chandler, Karl	C	6-5	250	27	6	Princeton	11
72	Cooke, Bill	DT	6-5	250	28	5	Massachusetts	12
16	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	195	28	4	Purdue	16
58	Daykin, Tony	LB	6-1	220	24	3	Georgia Tech	16
61	Elias, Homer	G	6-3	255	24	2	Tennessee State	16
78	English, Doug	DT	6-5	260	26	5	Texas	14
65	Fowler, Amos	G	6-3	250	23	2	Southern Miss.	16
38	Gaines, Lawrence	FB	6-1	230	26	3	Wyoming	13
71	Gallagher, Dave	DT	6-4	255	27	5	Michigan	1
83	Gay, Bill	TE	6-5	225	24	2	Southern Cal.	16
63	Hickman, Donnie	G	6-2	260	24	2	Southern Cal.	7
81	Hill, David	TE	6-2	230	25	4	Texas A&I	16
86	Hill, J.D.	WR	6-1	185	31	7	Arizona State	0
28	Hunter, James	DB	6-3	195	25	4	Grambling	9
23	Johnson, Levi	DB	6-3	200	29	5	Texas A&M	0
32	Kane, Rick	RB	5-11	200	25	3	San Jose State	15
25	King, Horace	FB	5-10	205	26	5	Georgia	15
11	Landry, Greg	QB	6-4	205	33	12	Massachusetts	5
26	Leonard, Tony	DB	5-11	175	26	4	Virginia Union	16
68	Markovich, Mark	G	6-5	255	27	5	Penn State	0
86	McGee, Willie	WR	5-11	175	29	7	Alcorn State	4
50	Naumoff, Paul	LB	6-1	215	34	13	Tennessee	15
74	Oates, Brad	T	6-6	275	26	5	Brigham Young	16
55	O'Neil, Ed	LB	6-3	235	27	6	Penn State	16
75	Pureifory, Dave	DE	6-1	255	30	8	Eastern Michigan	15
14	Reed, Joe	QB	6-1	190	31	8	Mississippi State	1
33	Rhodes, Bruce	DB	6-0	190	27	3	San Francisco St.	15
1	Richardo, Benny	K	5-10	170	25	2	San Diego State	16
82	Sanders, Ken	DE	6-5	245	29	8	Howard Payne	7
87	Scott, Fred	WR	6-2	180	27	6	Amherst	16
15	Skladany, Tom	P	6-0	195	24	2	Ohio State	16
54	Tearry, Larry	C	6-3	260	23	2	Wake Forest	14
30	Terry, Nat	DB	5-11	165	23	2	Florida State	10
84	Thompson, Jesse	WR	6-1	185	23	2	California	11
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	190	27	5	Oklahoma State	16
18	Washington, Gene	WR	6-1	180	32	10	Stanford	0
52	Washington, Dave	LB	6-6	230	31	10	Alcorn State	16
59	Weaver, Charlie	LB	6-2	225	30	9	Southern Cal.	16
21	Williams, Walt	DB	6-0	185	25	3	New Mexico State	15
77	Woodcock, John	DT	6-3	250	25	4	Hawaii	16
64	Gray, Dan	DE	6-5	240	23	2	Rutgers	7

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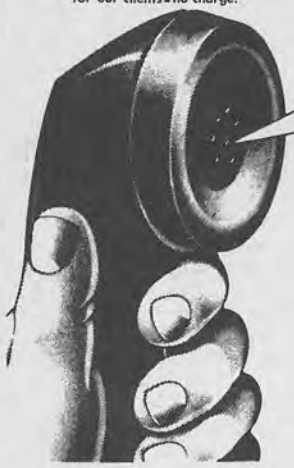

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carries a string of nine consecutive field goal conversions into this season.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Last year, once the Lions got used to Monte Clark and vice versa, they finished the season with a roar. Which really didn't surprise the GAMEPLAN analysts that much because we've always been convinced the Lions are one of the finest teams around. What it took to get the most out of them was someone like Coach Clark, who cut loose a lot of "dead weight" in his first year at the helm, putting the remaining players on notice that it was time to shape up or ship out. One player who won't be shipping out for awhile is quarterback Danielson, starting to come into his own as a solid pro signal caller. He enjoys the luxury of a deep and talented corps of receivers to aim his aerials at, plus a strong rushing attack to keep enemy defenses off balance. The offensive interior line, while admittedly young, has first-rate potential. The defensive corps also has an overall look of youth, although that doesn't worry us much -- since the young 'uns are the likes of "Bubba" Baker, Doug English, Luther Bradley and so on. Mixed in with those budding defensive stars are a handful of stable veterans like Naumoff, Weaver and a healthier Lem Barney. We expect the momentum the Lions picked up at the end of last season to springboard them into the '79 campaign, and an NFC Central title could be in the offing for this team.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Danielson	351/199	17	2294	18
Landry	77/48	1	452	1
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Hill	53	633	11.9	4
King	48	396	8.3	2
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Allen	5	70	14.0	0
O'Neil	4	49	12.3	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Bussey	225	924	4.1	5
King	155	660	4.3	0
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Skladany	86	3654	42.5	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Ricardo	0	32/33	20/28	92
Bussey	6	0/0	0/0	36

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	LIONS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	270	276
NET RUSH	2163	2184
Avg Per Game	135.2	136.3
NET PASS	2302	2299
Att/Comp	429/247	350/191
Had Int	18	22
Avg Per Game	143.9	143.7
PUNTS/AVG	87/42.0	87/40.2
Punts Return/Yds	48/430	53/468
Avg Per Return	9.0	8.8
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	51/1130	69/126
Avg Per Return	22.2	20.7
FUMBLES/LOST	35/15	41/19
FIELD GOALS	20/28	8/12
PATS	32/33	38/39
TOTAL POINTS	290	300

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11-12-78 DALLAS -6½ OVER GREEN BAY WON 42-14
12-31-78 LOS ANGELES - 7½ OVER MINNESOTA WON 34-10

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Chicago Bears

(7-9-0)

Last year's Bears were like a Lemon Meringue pie that was sweet and fancy on the top and bottom, but had a center made strictly out of sawdust. That's because Chicago opened the season with three straight victories and closed the campaign by winning four of five games -- but, in between, suffered eight consecutive defeats.

This season, in order to be the kind of taste sensation Windy City fans will really savor, Coach Neill Armstrong's gridders must avoid the near-epidemic of injuries that proved so costly a year ago. Plus, the Bears have to put more pizzaz in their passing attack, which sputtered along last season with about as much consistency as the Wright Brothers on their first flight.

The reverse side of the offensive coin, the rushing attack, was the antithesis of the passing game, as the hard-running Bears rolled up 157.9 yards-per-game last season to finish second among NFC teams (behind the Dallas Cowboys) in that department. Chicago's future opponents can expect more of the same, because the Bears' powerful running game is built around the best 1-2 ground gaining punch in pro football -- Watler Payton and Roland Harper.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	GREEN BAY
Sep	9	MINNESOTA
Sep	16	Dallas
Sep	23	Miami
Sep	30	TAMPA BAY
Oct	7	Buffalo
Oct	14	NEW ENGLAND
Oct	21	Minnesota
Oct	28	San Francisco
Nov	4	DETROIT
Nov	11	LOS ANGELES
Nov	18	NY JETS
Nov	22	Detroit
Dec	2	Tampa Bay
Dec	9	Green Bay
Dec	16	ST. LOUIS

Bears	1978 Results	Opp
17	St. Louis	10
16	at San Francisco	13
19	at Detroit	0
20	Minnesota	24
19	Oakland	25
14	at Green Bay	24
7	at Denver	16
19	at Tampa Bay	33
17	Detroit	21
29	Seattle	31
14	at Minnesota	17
13	Atlanta	7
14	Tampa Bay	3
7	at San Diego	40
14	Green Bay	0
14	at Washington	10

Chicago Bears 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
64	Albrecht, Ted	T/G	6-4	255	25	3	California	15
79	Antoine, Lionel	T	6-6	267	29	7	Southern Illinois	9
63	Ardizzone, Tony	C	6-3	245	23	1	Northwestern	0
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	205	26	5	Maryland	13
84	Baschnagel, Brian	WR/KR	6-0	184	25	4	Ohio State	16
25	Best, Art	RB/KR	6-1	206	26	3	Kent State	16
50	Bryant, Waymond	LB	6-3	239	27	5	Tennessee State	0
55	Buffone, Doug	LB	6-2	226	35	13	Louisville	15
59	Campbell, Gary	LB	6-1	218	27	3	Colorado	16
87	Cobb, Mike	TE	6-5	248	24	3	Michigan State	13
50	Devlin, Chris	LB	6-2	220	26	4	Penn State	16
39	Earl, Robin	RB/P	6-5	241	24	3	Washington	16
48	Ellis, Allan	CB	5-10	174	28	6	ULCA	20
8	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	208	24	3	Southern Cal	3
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	192	25	4	Yale	16
38	Freitas, George	TE	6-3	222	24	1	California	0
36	Gaines, Wentford	CB	6-0	185	26	2	Cincinnati	11
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11	210	26	5	Louisiana Tech	16
53	Hart, Tommy	DE	6-4	246	35	12	Morris Brown	16
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	238	26	5	Penn State	16
51	Herron, Bruce	LB	6-2	220	25	2	New Mexico	16
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	235	27	4	Illinois	9
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	275	28	5	Tampa	16
62	Jiggetts, Dan	T	6-4	276	25	4	Harvard	16
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	229	27	5	Morgan State	16
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	266	25	4	Wisconsin	16
24	Livers, Virgil	CB/KR	5-8	180	27	5	Western Kentucky	13
74	Meyers, Jerry	DT	6-4	245	25	4	Northern Illinois	16
58	Muckensturm, Jerry	LB	6-4	219	26	4	Arkansas State	16
22	Musso, Johnny	RB/KR	5-11	196	29	4	Alabama	0
52	Neal, Dan	C/G	6-4	254	30	7	Kentucky	16
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	245	30	8	Southern	15
82	Page, Alan	DT	6-4	225	34	13	Notre Dame	6
86	Parsons, Bob	TE/P	6-5	244	29	8	Penn State	16
34	Payton, Walter	RB/KR	6-5	202	25	5	Jackson State	16
15	Phipps, Mike	QB	6-3	209	32	10	Purdue	6
46	Plank, Doug	S	5-11	197	25	5	Ohio State	14
83	Richards, Golden	WR	6-0	180	28	7	Hawaii	1
83	Rivera, Steve	WR	5-11	183	25	3	California	0
57	Rives, Don	LB	6-2	229	28	6	Texas Tech	16
76	Rydalch, Ron	DT	6-4	251	27	5	Utah	11
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB-S	6-0	177	27	6	Ball State	16
85	Schubert, Steve	WR/KR	5-10	184	28	6	Massachusetts	13
89	Scott, James	WR/KR	6-1	191	27	4	Henderson J.C.	15
75	Sevy, Jeff	G/T	6-5	267	29	5	California	14
72	Shearer, Brad	DT	6-3	254	24	2	Texas	15
30	Skibinski, John	RB	6-0	218	24	2	Purdue	16
37	Snikeris, Jim	LB	6-0	230	24	1	Illinois Wesleyan	0
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	263	26	5	Illinois	16
47	Spivey, Mike	CB/KR	6-0	195	25	3	Colorado	16
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	171	27	5	Notre Dame	16
23	Walterscheid, Lenny	S/KR	5-11	186	25	3	Southern Utah St.	14

OFFENSE: The "commander-in-chief" is All-Pro Payton, who paced the NFC last season when he rambled for 1,395 yards and 11 TDs on a league-high 333 rushing attempts. Somehow or other, Payton was pretty much overlooked in '78, the "Year of Earl Campbell," but make no mistake -- "Sweetness" is still the most explosive running back in the game.

His counterpart, Roland Harper, is a pretty fair country ball carrier himself, having ripped and stomped for 992 yards and six scores on 240 sorties last year. Payton with 50 and Harper with 43 also finished 1-2 in pass receiving for the '78 Bears. For the entire campaign, that "Dynamic Duo" participated in a combined 666 plays as either rushers or receivers, accounting for 3,027 yards and 19 TDs. Considering the whole team only netted 4,459 yards and 29 TDs last year, it really tells you how valuable Payton and Harper are in the offensive arsenal.

Unfortunately, as strong as the Bears are in terms of starters at the running back spots, that's about how unstable they are when it comes to reserves. On call are Robin Earl, Art Best, John Skibinski and Johnny Musso, and if that foursome doesn't dazzle you, just consider what will happen to the rushing attack should long-term injuries incapacitate Payton and-or Harper.

That would truly be a disaster for the Chicago offense, because the passing attack has enough problems of its own. Like a pair of quarterbacks -- Bob Avellini and Mike Phipps -- who gave up 26 interceptions and threw just seven scoring passes last season.

Avellini was the more active of that duo in '78, and the more accurate with a 53.4 percent completion ratio (141-264) compared to 53.0 percent of Phipps (44-83). Last, but hardly least, in the Windy City "QB Sweepstakes" is third-year pro

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Chicago Bears Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Hampton, Dan	DT	6-4	250	Arkansas
Harris, Al	DE	6-4	240	Arizona St
Watts, Rickey	WR	6-1	190	Tulsa
McClendon, Willie	RB	6-2	190	Georgia
Sullivan, John	LB	6-2	230	Illinois
Kunz, Lee	LB	6-2	230	Nebraska
Moss, Rick	DB	5-11	185	Purdue
Heavens, Jerome	RB	6-0	210	Notre Dame
Restic, Joe	DB	6-2	185	Notre Dame
Wright, Bob	OT	6-5	245	Cincinnati
Decker, Dave	DB	6-2	190	Iowa

Vince Evans, and his '78 stats read this way – four times faded back to pass, twice sacked, one completed aerial and one interception. Hardly an all-star cast, wouldn't you agree?

Waiting for the resolution of the quarterback situation are two quality wide receivers, James Scott and ex-Dallas Cowboy Golden Richards, who teamed up for 69 pass receptions last season. Scott is a hiccup-quick deep threat who averaged 18.1 yards per catch and dashed for five TDs in '78. But, alas, as it is at running back, depth at the wideouts, is, ahem .... it's Steve Schubert, Brian Baschnagel and (if he's healthy again) Steve Rivera. Need we say more than that?

Rugged Greg Latta, more of a blocker than a pass catcher, is the tight end. Last season, he caught just 15 passes, but laid flat at least three times that many linebackers as he blocked on running plays. Backing him up are Mike Cobb, a former Cincinnati Bengal with good promise, and Bob Parsons, the team's punter, who averaged 37.0 yards on 96 kicks last year.

While the Bears were lucky in terms of holding down injuries at the skill positions last season, the offensive line often looked like a M*A*S*H unit, as one player after another went down. As a result, guards Noah Jackson and Revie Sorey, along with tackle Dennis Lick, were the only linemen who started all 16 regular season games in '78.

Tackle Ted Albrecht and center Dan Neal normally make up the rest of the interior line, and when all components of this unit are healthy, it can blow out enemy defenders with real fire-power. Prividing adequate depth up front are tackles Lionel Antoine and Dan Jiggetts, guard Jeff Sevy and centers Jon Morris and Dan Peiffer, the latter back in tow after an injury-induced layoff in '78.

DEFENSE: Slowly but surely, the Bears are putting together a sturdy defensive unit, and one of their best moves was signing former Minnesota Vikings All-Pro Alan Page early last season when he was let go on waivers. Page, the only defensive lineman ever voted the NFL's Most Valuable Player (1971), was the chief honcho in Chicago's pass rush in '78. He led the team with 11½ sacks. Now, if only the Bears can come up with a few more "key" acquisitions like Page.

Occupying the tackle spot opposite Page is eight-year vet Jim Osborne, with the flanks protected by Tommy Hart and Mike Hartenstine. Hart is another former All-Pro (with San Francisco) who accounted for 7½ QB sacks last year, his first in the Windy City. Tackle Brad Shearer, the Bears' top pick in the '78 college draft, Ron Rydalch, Jerry Meyers and Roger Stillwell provide quality support in the front ranks. Stillwell is a quick 250-pounder and former regular who hopes to return after sitting out last season due to injury.

Heading up the linebacking corps, which turned in a steady performance last season despite injury problems, is 13-year pro Doug Buffone, one of the most reliable defenders in pro ball. Buffone mans one outside 'backer spot, while opposite him is Gary Campbell, second on the team in total tackles with 110 last year. Campbell took over a starting job in '78 when Waymond Bryant was way-laid by injury, but if he's healthy again, Bryant will be hard to keep out of the starting line-up. Others providing depth on the outside are Bruce Herron and Chris Devlin.

Backing up the middle of the line is Don Rives, who inherited that spot last season when Tom Hicks went down with an injury. Rives and Hicks are both rugged defenders who are more than capable of holding the fort in the middle, where Jerry Muckerstrum is also on call.

The secondary, another area hit by injuries in '78, is spearheaded by wide-ranging strong safety Gary Fencik, team leader last season in total tackles (130), pass deflections (10) and pass interceptions (4). Doug Plank mans the free safety spot, and he's also a proven defender, but back-up strength at the safeties is mighty slim, with Lenny Walterscheid the lone experienced reserve.

Virgil Livers and Terry Schmidt

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1978 LEADERS				
Pass	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Avellini	264/141	16	1718	5
Phipps	83/44	10	465	2
REC	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
Payton	50	480	9.6	0
Harper	43	340	7.9	2
INT	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
Fencik	4	77	19.3	0
Livers	3	86	28.7	1
RUSH	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Payton	333	1395	4.2	11
Harper	240	992	4.1	6
PUNT	NO	YDS	AVG	BK
Parsons	96	3549	37.0	0
SCORE	TD	EP/MA	FG/MA	PTS
Thomas	0	26/29	17/22	77
Payton	11	0/0	0/0	66

1978 Regular Season Statistics	BEARS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	262	282
NET RUSH	2526	2174
Avg Per Game	157.9	135.9
NET PASS	1933	2506
Att/Comp	352/186	436/239
Had Int	28	17
Avg Per Game	120.8	156.6
PUNTS/AVG	96/37.0	97/35.4
Punts Return/Yds	41/286	45/295
Avg Per Return	7.0	6.6
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	61/1358	52/1146
Avg Per Return	22.3	22.0
FUMBLES/LOST	22/8	32/16
FIELD GOALS	17/22	16/19
PATS	26/29	28/33
TOTAL POINTS	253	274

handled cornerback duties last year, although Schmidt could find himself back on the bench if former starter Allan Ellis rebounds from an injury that shelved him last season. Livers, despite physical maladies of his own in '78, played his usual fine brand of defense, which included one pass interception he returned 60-yards for a touchdown. Wentford Gaines andMike Spivey supply depth at the corners, an area that will benefit greatly if Ellis fully recovers.

Placekicking duties are the responsibility of Bob Thomas, who enjoyed his best year as a pro in '78 with 17 of 22 field goals and 26 of 29 PATs. Thomas was especially effective on field goals inside the 40 last season, drilling 16 of 18 three-pointers from that range. Chief among the kick return specialists is Steve Schubert, also a back-up wide receiver.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: After fighting their way into the NFC playoffs two years back as a Wild Card entry, the Bears faded a bit last season in their initial campaign under Coach Neill Armstrong. This time around, the Windy City pigskinners could re-capture their playoff touch, but only if injuries -- a constant problem in '78 -- can be held down. Another pre-requisite to success for the Bears is a stronger passing attack to take some of the heat off their dynamic rushing game. But it's hard to imagine that happening unless one of the quarterbacks suddenly puts it all together and emerges as a reliable chucker. Sparked by Payton and Harper, the ground game continues to be Chicago's main weapon on the attack, and the offensive line will provide that due with enough running room to annex at least as much territory as they did a year ago. The defensive unit is very solid, capable of coping with enemy assaults on the ground and via the air lanes. Within their own division, the Bears will be in the thick of what promises to be a real horse-race

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Minnesota Vikings

(8-8-1)

That 'ol sun-uva-gun, that Fran Tarkenton -- he did it again! Again, last season when the Vikes most needed the services of his record-shattering passing arm, the Tark rebounded from a '77 injury to author one of the most explosive aerial attacks in the NFL. Coupled with Minnesota's usual grudging performance on defense, that prolific passing game enabled the Vikings to hold off the usurpers from Green Bay, Detroit and Chicago in extending their title reign in the NFC's Central Division.

But, just as GAMEPLAN pointed out last year, it gets harder all the time for the Vikings to hang onto their throne. Last season, 'twas only by the skin of their *bleeps* that Coach Bud Grant's forces held off the Green Bay Packers, also 8-7-1 in regular season action but relegated to runner-up status because Minnesota outscored them (31-17) in two head-to-head meetings.

This year, there's not much doubt the Vikings face the same kind of uphill struggle if they want to stay on top of their division. But never sell the Vikes short, because their vast experience is an asset just as valuable as 4.4 speed and a cannon for a throwing arm.

OFFENSE: Take quarterback Fran Tarkenton, for instance, in his 19th pro season -- no, that's no misprint, this is Tark's *19th year!* Last season, as a mere "whipper-snapper" in his 18th campaign, Francis ripped enemy secondaries for 3,468 yards (345-572; 60.3 percent) and 25 touchdowns, making him the most prolific thrower in the NFL.

Tarkenton also had 32 passes intercepted and was sacked 27 times in '78, not really that bad when you consider how many times he attempted to pass. But, when you consider his age (39) and the high injury ratio at quarterback, it would be wise to examine the back-up strength at the signal calling spot.

What you'd find would be Tommy Kramer and Bob Lee, at opposite ends of the pro football spectrum in terms of age, but both capable of handling the assignment should either be called on.

However, the fact that Kramer and Lee played so little in '78 (aggregate 7 of 20 pass attempts) makes us suspicious as to how sharp they'd be if elevated to starting status. That's our only reservation, because otherwise we view Kramer and Lee as the best set of back-up field generals in the National Conference.

The pass receiving contingent, while a diversified unit that had four players catch 40 or more aerials in '78, is paced by wide receivers Ahmad Rashad and Sammy White -- the "long-ball" artists. Last season, Rashad scored eight times on 66 catches, while the ever-elusive White turned 53 receptions into 741 yards and nine TDs.

Ten-year veteran Bob Tucker, who rumbled for 540 yards on 47 catches in '78, is a "rock" at the tight end spot. Depth behind him is solid, as well, consisting of former regular Stu Voigt and Steve Craig. But reserve strength at the wide receiving spots is another matter, because Kevin Miller and Harry Washington don't look like the kind of replacements you'd want for a Rashad or White.

Time was when the Vikings could always count on their rushing attack, sparked by Chuck Foreman, for a decent overland assault to balance out the offense. Last season was a glaring exception, however, as Minnesota ranked at the very bottom of the NFL with a dismal 96.0 yards-per-game rushing total -- another big reason why the Vikes relied so much on their passing attack in '78.

Once again, Foreman led the ball toters a year ago, but with only 749 yards on 237 carries. Slowed by injuries and inadequate blocking from the offensive line last season, Foreman fell short of the 1,000-yard mark for the first time in four years, although he did finish third on the team with 61 pass receptions.

His counterpart at the other running back, ex-San Diego Charger Rickey Young, managed to rush for only 417 yards last fall. But Young was hell-on-wheels as a pass receiver, pacing the entire NFL with 88 grads for 704 yards and five TDs. It's obvious Foreman and Young are dangerous pass catchers, although the offense sure could use some extra rushing muscle from them to give the offense better balance.

The Vikes are deep in terms of quantity at the running back spots, where there's also Robert Miller, Sammy Johnson, Brent McClanahan and Mark Kellar. Unfortunately, quantity doesn't always add up to "quality," and in that respect, we don't see much hope of that foursome beefing up Minnesota's rushing attack.

Up front, the offensive line is undergoing steady change, part and parcel as to the reason why the blocking wasn't always up-to-snuff last season. The beat may continue this year, since two long-time trench regulars -- center Mick Tinglehoff and tackle Ron Yary -- may not be returning.

Pivot man Tinglehoff, 17 years a pro, is rumored to be on the verge of retirement, and if that's true, his very large shoes will have to be filled by Jim Hough, a mere second-year man. Tackle Yary,

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	SAN FRANCISCO
Sep	9	Chicago
Sep	16	MIAMI
Sep	23	GREEN BAY
Sep	30	Detroit
Oct	7	DALLAS
Oct	15	NY Jets
Oct	21	CHICAGO
Oct	28	TAMPA BAY
Nov	4	St. Louis
Nov	11	Green Bay
Nov	18	DETROIT
Nov	25	Tampa Bay
Dec	2	Los Angeles
Dec	9	BUFFALO
Dec	16	New England

Vikings	1978 Results	Opp
24	at New Orleans	31
12	Denver	9
10	Tampa Bay	16
24	at Chicago	20
24	at Tampa Bay	7
28	at Seattle	29
17	Los Angeles	34
21	Green Bay	7
21	at Dallas	10
17	Detroit	7
17	Chicago	14
7	San Diego	13
10	at Green Bay	10
28	Philadelphia	27
14	at Detroit	45
20	at Oakland	27

Minnesota Vikings Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Brown, Ted	RB	6-0	190	North Carolina St
Huffman, Dave	C	6-5	245	Notre Dame
Dils, Steve	QB	6-2	190	Stanford
Meter, Jerry	LB	6-3	210	Michigan
Senser, Joe	TE	6-6	220	West Chester St
Winkel, Bob	DT	6-4	250	Kentucky
Diggs, Billy	WR	6-1	190	Winston-Salem
Nelson, Brian	WR	5-11	176	Texas Tech
Stephens, David	LB	6-5	235	Kentucky

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unhappy and demanding that he be traded, is a many-times All-Pro who won't be easy to replace either.

Foremost of the tackle prospects is Steve Riley, a standout blocker laid-low by injuries last year. He's joined by the guy who replaced him in '78 -- Frank Myers -- and Bob Lingenfelter. The most secure area can be found at the guards, where the regulars are Charles Goodrum and Wes Hamilton, with Dennis Swilley in reserve. Even if Tinglehoff and Yary do depart for their separate reasons, the Vikings have the nucleus for a good blocking corps.

DEFENSE: The defensive unit is also in the midst of personnel changes, but this is still one of the league's better group of defenders. The Vikings have wisely used the college draft over the past few years to re-mold their defense as signs of age became evident, and the future looks bright for the Minny stop troops with young "turks" like Mark Mullaney, James White and Randy Holloway on duty.

Last season, "Duck" White stepped into a regular job at tackle when Alan Page was let go, and he matched up nicely with veteran Doug Sutherland to keep the middle of the line rock-ribbed. The primary back-up at tackle, second-year pro Lyman Smith, has limited experience, so it's important the regulars avoid getting hurt.

The flanks are once again under the protection of veterans Carl Eller and Jim Marshall, although it gets tougher all the time for them to fend off challengers like Mullaney and Holloway. Both former No. 1 draft picks (Mullaney in '75, Holloway in '78), they represent the wave of the future for Minnesota's defensive line, and the "future" looks promising with that duo at the forefront.

Heading up the rock-ribbed linebacking corps are Matt Blair and Fred McNeill, probably the best pair of outside 'backers on the same NFL team. Rounding out the starting crew is "mike" man Jeff Siemon, another high-class defender when he's healthy, which hasn't always been the case the past few years.

When Siemon needs a breather in the middle, the Vikes have a fine young replacement in Scott Studwell, a potential starter who hits like a rifle shot. Not so encouraging, though, is the reserve situation on the outside, unless Whip Walton -- out last year due to injury -- comes back to help veteran Wally Hilgenberg.

The secondary crew, hit by a rash of injuries, was held accountable for a weak pass defense which allowed 168.1 yards-per-game last season. But this year, if injuries are held down and young ball-hawks like John Turner continue to improve, enemy passers will find the Viking deep corps much harder to make head-way against.

Cornerback Turner was rushed into the breach last year when regular Nate Wright went down with an injury, and he paid the price for his inexperience. But now that his "baptism-under-fire" is completed, Turner should be more polished, and the anticipated return of Wright, plus veteran incumbent Bobby Bryant, will give the Vikes solid play at the corners. Last season, the fast-reacting Bryant led the team and tied for fourth in the NFL with seven pass interceptions.

Another steady defender, strong safety Jeff Wright, was also kayoed by injury in '78, although Phil Wise did a fine job in his lieu. They will battle it out for the starting spot this year. Free safety duties are also up-for-grabs between 16-year veteran Paul Krause, second on the NFL's all-time interception list with 78, and promising third-year pro Tom Hannon.

The placement booting aspect of the Vikings' kicking game is set, with Rich Danmeier a good short-range man who connected on 12 of 19 gield goals and 36 of 37 extra point attempts last fall. Hoping to make the punting game just as stable is ex-Cleveland Brown Greg Coleman, a mid-season '78 acquisition who averaged 39.0 yards on 51 boots after joining the Vikings.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: It was by the narrowest possible margin that the

Minnesota Vikings 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
25	Allen, Nate	CB	5-11	174	9	31	Texas Southern	16
59	Blair, Matt	LB	6-5	229	6	28	Iowa State	16
20	Bryant, Bobby	CB	6-1	170	11	35	South Carolina	16
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	178	3	25	Florida A & M	9
84	Craig, Steve	TE	6-3	231	6	28	Northwestern	16
7	Danmeier, Rick	K	6-0	183	2	27	Sioux Falls	16
81	Eller, Carl	DE	6-6	247	16	37	Minnesota	14
44	Foreman, Chuck	RB	6-2	207	7	29	Miami	14
68	Goodrum, Charles	T	6-3	256	7	29	Florida A & M	16
61	Hamilton, Wes	G	6-3	255	4	26	Tulsa	16
45	Hannon, Tom	S	5-11	193	3	24	Michigan State	16
58	Hilgenberg, Wally	LB	6-3	229	16	37	Iowa	15
75	Holloway, Randy	DE	6-5	245	2	24	Pittsburgh	16
51	Hough, Jim	C	6-2	267	2	23	Utah State	15
48	Johnson, Sammy	RB	6-1	226	6	27	North Carolina	3
39	Kellar, Mark	RB	6-0	225	4	27	Northern Illinois	16
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-1	199	3	24	Rice	4
22	Krause, Paul	S	6-3	205	16	37	Iowa	16
19	Lee, Bob	QB	6-2	195	11	33	Pacific	3
76	Lingenfelter, Bob	T	6-7	277	3	25	Nebraska	5
70	Marshall, Jim	DE	6-4	240	20	42	Ohio State	16
33	McClanahan, Brent	RB	5-10	202	7	29	Arizona State	12
54	McNeill, Fred	LB	6-2	229	6	27	UCLA	16
87	Miller, Kevin	WR	5-10	180	2	24	Louisville	16
35	Miller, Robert	RB	5-11	204	5	26	Kansas	15
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	242	5	26	Colorado State	15
31	Munsey, Nelson	CB	6-1	198	8	31	Wyoming	0
74	Myers, Frank	T	6-5	255	2	23	Texas A & M	12
28	Rashad, Ahmad	WR	6-2	200	7	30	Oregon	16
78	Riley, Steve	T	6-6	258	6	27	Southern California	5
50	Siemon, Jeff	LB	6-3	237	8	29	Stanford	16
79	Smith, Lyman	DT	6-5	250	2	29	Duke	11
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	224	3	25	Illinois	13
69	Sutherland, Doug	DT	6-3	250	10	31	Superior, Wis.	16
67	Swilley, Dennis	G	6-3	241	3	24	Texas A & M	14
10	Tarkenton, Fran	QB	6-0	185	19	39	Georgia	16
53	Tingelhoff, Mick	C	6-2	240	18	39	Nebraska	16
38	Tucker, Bob	TE	6-3	230	10	34	Bloomsburg, Pa.	16
27	Turner, John	CB	6-0	199	2	23	Miami	14
83	Voigt, Stu	TE	6-1	225	10	31	Wisconsin	15
80	Washington, Harry	WR	6-0	180	2	23	Colorado State	10
72	White, James	DT	6-3	263	4	26	Oklahoma State	16
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	189	4	25	Grambling	16
29	Wise, Phil	S	6-0	193	8	30	Nebraska-Omaha	16
43	Wright, Nate	CB	5-11	180	11	32	San Diego State	16
73	Yary, Ron	T	6-6	255	12	33	Southern California	16
34	Young, Rickey	RB	6-2	195	5	26	Jackson State	16

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Tarkenton	572/345	32	3468	25
Kramer	16/5	1	50	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Young	88	704	8.0	5
Rashad	66	769	11.7	8
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Bryant	7	69	9.9	0
N. Wright	5	58	11.6	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Foreman	237	749	3.2	5
Young	134	417	3.1	1
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Coleman	51	1991	39.0	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Danmeir	0	36/37	12/19	72
S. White	9	0/0	0/0	54

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	VIKINGS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	308	279
NET RUSH	1536	2116
Avg Per Game	96.0	132.3
NET PASS	3243	2690
Att/Comp	592/352	442/240
Had Int	34	22
Avg Per Game	202.7	168.1
PUNTS/AVG	85/36.4	96/34.7
Punts Return/Yds	49/239	52/541
Avg Per Return	4.9	10.4
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	50/1059	61/1187
Avg Per Return	19.2	21.3
FUMBLES/LOST	34/17	35/21
FIELD GOALS	12/19	13/19
PATS	36/37	33/39
TOTAL POINTS	294	306

Vikings kept alive their title skein in the NFC Central last year, and people are beginning to ask how long it can go on. Well, from this corner, it appears the Vikes stand a very good chance of continuing their winning habits -- grey hair, changing personnel and all. The offense will rally, as it has so often in the past, around the superb passing of Fran Tarkenton. But, and this point can't be emphasized enough, the Vikes really do need more firepower in their rushing attack, a commodity the gifted Chuck Foreman could supply if the blocking corps opens enough holes for him. Defensively, the Vikings have a good combination of veteran talent and promising young defenders that, in our humble opinion, will prove tough on both enemy runners and passers. In his 12 years as Minnesota skipper, the highly-respected Bud Grant has led the Vikes to ten NFC Central titles, an amazing record of success that could be perpetuated this season.

Green Bay Packers

(8-7-1)

Just fourteen points. The point differential in last year's two meetings with the Minnesota Vikings, who finished with an identical 8-7-1 mark. That's how very close Coach Bart Starr's gridders came to carting off the NFC Central title and landing a playoff berth last season. So, with the '79 pro football campaign right around the corner, you'll probably be seeing a lot of cars bearing those "The Pack Is Back" bumper stickers.

All of which is very well and good, because Packer fans have every right to be optimistic about their team's prospects for this season. But that optimism should be tempered by the harsh reality of certain shortcomings that still must be rectified before Green Bay can rise to the top of their division again.

The biggest single handicap, and one which had a lot to do with the Packers winning only two of their last nine games after a hot start in '78, is an overall lack of solid depth. With the NFL regular season expanded to 16-games, it's more important than ever to have quality reserve strength, which is one department the Packers need help in.

OFFENSE: Take the vital quarterbacking spot, where the starter is fast improving three-year pro David Whitehurst. Last season, in his first full campaign as the regular QB, Whitehurst was accurate on 168 of 328 passes for 2093 yards, with ten of his tosses going for touchdowns. He showed himself to be a good leader with the ability to play with pain, which was often the case in '78 when he was sacked 35 times.

However, that pounding took enough of a toll on Whitehurst to necessitate off-season shoulder surgery, and the Packers may be running up an S-O-S signal if he doesn't make a speedy recovery. Because in reserve at quarterback (are you sitting down, Green Bay fans?) are Bobby Douglass, Lynn Dickey and Dennis Sproul. Dickey and Sproul both missed most of last season with injuries, and yes, that is THE Bobby Douglass, the fullback playing quarterback who used to be with the Chicago Bears.

At the wide receiving spots, the Packers have a pair of budding stars in James Lofton and Aundra Thompson. Lofton was Green Bay's No. 1 pick in last year's college draft, and he more than lived up to their expectations, earning a berth in the Pro Bowl on the strength of 46 pass receptions for 818 yards and six touchdowns. Running mate Thompson, in what was really his first full year at wide receiver, was almost as spectacular with 26 catches for a team-high 20.3 yard average.

Chief among the back-ups at wide receiver, and a good one when he stays healthy, is Steve Odom. Before biting the dust with an injury in game no. 12 last season, Odom was a capable pass catcher and superb kick returner who led the NFL with a 27.1 yard average and one 95-yard TD jaunt on 25 kickoff returns. Reports are that Odom is operating at top-speed again, and they better be true, because after him are listed Elmo Boyd and Walter Tullis as reserve wide receivers.

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Chicago
Sep	9	NEW ORLEANS
Sep	16	TAMPA BAY
Sep	23	Minnesota
Oct	1	NEW ENGLAND
Oct	7	Atlanta
Oct	14	DETROIT
Oct	21	Tampa Bay
Oct	28	Miami
Nov	4	NY Jets
Nov	11	MINNESOTA
Nov	18	Buffalo
Nov	25	PHILADELPHIA
Dec	2	Washington
Dec	9	CHICAGO
Dec	15	Detroit

Packers	1978 Results	Opp
13	at Detroit	7
28	New Orleans	17
3	Oakland	28
24	at San Diego	3
35	Detroit	14
24	Chicago	14
45	Seattle	28
7	at Minnesota	21
9	Tampa Bay	7
3	at Philadelphia	10
14	Dallas	42
3	at Denver	16
10	Minnesota	10
17	at Tampa Bay	7
0	at Chicago	14
14	at Los Angeles	31

Throwing his weight around at the tight end spot is durable veteran Rich McGeorge, who took time out from his blocking duties last season to rumble for 247 yards on 23 pass receptions. That effort enabled McGeorge to surpass former Packer great Ron Kramer in career pass receptions for a tight end, and he shows no signs of slowing down entering his 11th pro campaign. Once again, however, depth at the tight end spot is suspect, at this writing consisting of only Paul Coffman, who didn't catch a single pass in '78.

The rushing attack for the Packers is a fairly simplistic thing. On first down, it calls for Terdell Middleton to run left, on second down for Middleton to run right, and on third down for (you know who) to carry the mail up the middle. Which is fine from Middleton's point of view, we're sure, since that philosophy allowed him to lug the pigskin 284 times for 1,116 yards and 11 touchdowns last season.

What isn't so "fine" is that the Packers as a team in '78 managed to rush for just 126.4 yards-per-game, indicating the need for another quality ball toter to help shoulder the burden. Barty Smith, who enjoyed his best pro season with 567 rushing yards last fall, could be the answer. But after him, there's a drastic drop to the likes of Jim Culbreath (92 yards), Walt Landers (40 yards), Nate Simpson (58) and Eric Torkelson (18).

One of Coach Starr's primary goals the past few years has been to build a strong offensive interior line, and off last year's usually reliable performance by this unit, he's on the right track. Leading the blocking charge is center Larry McCarren, only in his 7th pro season but still the "elder statesman" in the front wall. Backstopping him at the pivot spot is Rick Nuzum, active in all 16 games last season.

Solidly entrenched at the guards are Derrel Gofourth and Mel Jackson, both explosive young blockers, with adequate backup support in Leotis Harris and Randy Pass. At the tackles, Greg Koch filled one spot full-time last season, while Tim Stokes and Gerald Skinner shared the other. However, Stokes and Skinner may find themselves relegated to back-up status now that bruising Mark Koncar, out last year due to injury, is back on the scene.

DEFENSE: Just as it is with the offensive line, the defensive frontage is slowly rounding into top shape. That strong first-line-of-resistance is the backbone of an overall fine group of defenders, and provided everyone stays healthy, the Packers will field their usual rugged gang of stop troops.

Thundering in from the line flanks are two of the finest young pass rushers in the business, Ezra Johnson and Mike Butler, who put the blast on 20½ and 11½ enemy quarterbacks, respectively, last season. Johnson is a super-quick flankman selected to represent the Packers in the last Pro Bowl, while the powerful Butler will earn the same kind of recognition once he learns to play with intensity all the time. Former regular Robert Barber supplies depth.

The tackles holes are occupied by veterans Carl Barzilauskas, acquired in

a '78 trade with the NY Jets and Dave Roller. Both are competent workmen with the experience to protect the middle and supply an adequate pass rush. On call should either need a breather is second-year pro Terry Jones.

At linebacker, the Packers hit the jackpot in last year's college draft when they selected John Anderson (second pick in round one) and Mike Hunt (second round). Because both stepped into starting jobs almost immediately as rookies in '78, Hunt in the middle and Anderson at one outside spot. Anderson, despite missing four games because of injury, finished second on the team with five pass interceptions, the most by any linebacker in the NFL.

The third starting 'backer, and the leader in this area, is seven-year veteran Gary Weaver. Foremost of the reserve linebackers is Jim Carter, a starter in the middle until Hunt's arrival last year, along with Mike Douglass, Jim Gueno, Paul Rudzinski and Fran Chesley.

The secondary crew is one of the best around, but only if All-Pro cornerback Willie Buchanon comes to contract terms with the Packers. Last season, Buchanon intercepted nine passes to tie (with Ken Stone of St. Louis) for the National Conference leadership, but he's now a free agent and may wind up signing with another team if Green Bay doesn't come up with the right offer.

Set at the other corner is Mike McCoy and, should Buchanon go elsewhere, those in line for his old spot are Estus Hood and Howard Sampson. Hood was solid as a fill-in last season when he came up with three interceptions, while Sampson displayed real toughness as a relief man at cornerback and safety.

The safety regulars, and one of the best tandems in the NFC, are Steve Luke (strong side) and Johnnie Gray (weak side). A year ago, they combined for five pass thefts, with Luke running one of his interceptions back 63-yards for a touchdown. In addition to the above-mentioned Sampson, also in reserve at safety is four-year pro Steve Wagner.

The Packers may be shaking up their kicking game, since both placement specialist Chester Marcol and punter David Beverly were disappointments last season. Punter Beverly finished last among qualifiers in the NFC with a puny 35.5 yard average and, while Marcol was 30 of 31 on PATs, he converted only 11 of 19 field goal attempts.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Last year's Packers ran out of gas down the backstretch after a banner 6-2 start but still came within a whisker of the NFC

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Whitehurst	328/168	17	2093	10
Sproul	13/5	0	87	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Lofton	46	818	17.7	6
Smith	37	256	6.9	0
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Buchanon	9	93	10.3	1
Anderson	5	27	5.4	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Middeton	284	1116	3.9	11
Smith	154	567	3.7	4
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Beverly	106	3759	35.5	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Middelton	12	0	0	72
Marcol	0	30	11	63

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	PACKERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	226	302
NET RUSH	2023	2439
Avg Per Game	126.4	152.4
NET PASS	2084	2524
Att/Comp	357/180	463/254
Had Int	18	27
Avg Per Game	130.3	157.8
PUNTS/AVG	106/35.5	89/38.3
Punts Return/Yds	49/393	54/286
Avg Per Return	8.0	5.3
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	52/1085	52/1015
Avg Per Return	20.8	19.5
FUMBLES/LOST	24	20
FIELD GOALS	11/19	5/18
PATS	30/31	36/36
TOTAL POINTS	249	269

Green Bay Packers 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
60	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	221	23	2	Michigan	13
70	Barber, Robert	DE	6-3	240	28	4	Grambling	16
75	Barzilauskas, Carl	DT	6-6	265	28	6	Indiana	16
11	Beverly, David	P	6-2	180	29	6	Auburn	16
85	Boyd, Elmo	WR	6-0	188	25	2	E. Kentucky	2
28	Buchanon, Willie	CB	6-0	190	29	8	San Diego St.	16
77	Butler, Michael	DE	6-5	265	25	3	Kansas	16
50	Carter, Jim	LB	6-3	245	31	10	Minnesota	14
53	Chesley, Francis	LB	6-3	219	24	2	Wyoming	1
82	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	218	23	2	Kansas State	16
31	Culbreath, Jim	RB	6-0	210	27	2	Oklahoma	12
10	Dickey, Lynn	QB	6-4	220	30	9	Kansas State	0
19	Douglass, Bobby	QB	6-4	225	31	11	Kansas	12
65	Douglass, Mike	LB	6-0	224	24	2	San Diego State	16
57	Gofourth, Derrel	G	6-3	260	24	3	Oklahoma State	16
24	Gray, Johnnie	S	5-11	185	26	5	Cal St. Fuller	16
51	Gueno, Jim	LB	6-2	220	25	4	Tulane	15
69	Harris, Leotis	G	6-1	267	24	2	Arkansas	13
37	Harrison, Reggie	FB	5-11	220	28	6	Cincinnati	2
38	Hood, Estus	DB	5-11	180	24	2	Illinois State	16
55	Hunt, Mike	LB	6-2	240	23	2	Minnesota	16
71	Jackson, Mel	G	6-1	267	25	5	USC	16
78	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	240	24	3	Morris Brown	16
63	Jones, Terry	DT	6-2	259	23	2	Alabama	16
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	265	24	3	Arkansas	16
79	Koncar, Mark	T	6-5	268	26	4	Colorado	0
42	Landers, Walt	FB	6-0	214	26	2	Clark	4
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	187	23	2	Stanford	16
46	Luke, Steve	S	6-2	205	25	5	Ohio State	16
13	Marcol, Chester	K	6-0	190	30	8	Hillsdale	16
34	Middleton, Terdell	HB	6-0	195	24	3	Memphis State	16
54	McCarren, Larry	C	6-3	248	28	7	Illinois	16
29	McCoy, Mike	DB	5-11	183	26	4	Colorado	16
81	McGeorge, Rich	TE	6-4	230	31	10	Elon	16
56	Nuzum, Rich	C	6-4	238	27	3	Kentucky	16
84	Odom, Steve	WR/KR	5-8	174	27	6	Utah	12
62	Pass, Randy	G	6-3	247	24	2	Georgia Tech	2
66	Rudzinski, Paul	LB	6-1	220	23	2	Michigan State	16
74	Roller, Dave	DT	6-2	270	30	6	Kentucky	16
36	Sampson, Howard	DB	5-10	185	23	2	Arkansas	15
48	Simpson, Nate	HB	5-11	190	25	3	Tennessee State	16
73	Skinner, Gerald	T	6-4	260	25	2	Arkansas	15
33	Smith, Barty	FB	6-4	240	27	6	Richmond	16
16	Sproul, Dennis	QB	6-2	210	23	2	Arizona	6
76	Stokes, Tim	T	6-5	252	29	6	Oregon	16
43	Thompson, Aundra	WR	6-0	186	26	3	E. Texas State	16
26	Torkelson, Eric	HB	6-2	194	27	6	Connecticut	14
20	Tullis, Walter	WR	6-0	170	26	2	Delaware State	16
21	Wagner, Steve	DB	6-2	208	25	3	Wisconsin	16
52	Weaver, Gary	LB	6-1	225	30	7	Fresno	16
17	Whitehurst, David	QB	6-2	204	24	3	Furman	16

Green Bay Packers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Ivery, Eddie Lee	RB	6-0	200	Georgia Tech
Atkins, Steve	RB	6-1	225	Maryland
Johnson, Charles	DT	6-2	260	Maryland
Simmons, Dave	LB	6-5	220	North Carolina
Monroe, Henry	DB	5-11	170	Mississippi St
Wingo, Rich	LB	6-2	220	Alabama
Cassidy, Ron	WR	6-0	180	Utah State
Thompson, John	TE	6-3	230	Utah State
Lockett, Frank	WR	6-0	195	Nebraska
Thorson, Mark	DB	6-1	185	Ottawa (Kan)
Morts, Bill	P	5-11	190	South Dakota

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Central title. Reaching those same heights this season is certainly possible, and so is a division championship, because there's a wide-open race shaping up in the NFC Central -- with the Packers very much in the running! Offensively, the emergence of players like Whitehurst, Middleton, Lofton and others is slowly but surely transforming the attack into a very respectable unit. For sure, there are still some problem areas on offense, the most prominent being the general lack of proven depth, but the potential is there for the Packers to have a strong and balanced attack, especially if the young interior line continues to develop. The Packers are very well-heeled on defense, both in terms of starting personnel and reserve strength, although it would be comforting to see a few more experienced defenders on call in the front wall. Like we said, it looks as though a real horse-race is on tap for the '79 NFC Central title, and Coach Bart Starr's "hosses" are sure to be in the thick of the scramble if they keep injuries to a minimum. But, in the end, we look for the Packers to run no better than second or third in their division, which is a tribute to Coach Starr when you consider how bad the team was when he took over.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

(5-11-0)

Far-fetched as the notion may seem, Coach John McKay honestly feels his Bucs aren't that far from being a title contender in the NFC's Central Division. "I thought 9-7 would win the division last year," McKay comments, "and that we had the ability to do that. Our division is still very close from top-to-bottom and 9-7 may win it again."

In order for the Bucs to rise to the lofty heights of a 9-7 record this season, which would be more victories that the team has managed in its first three years of existence, the main requirement will be keeping the players healthier. At the mid-way point of the '78 campaign, before the injury epidemic struck, the Bucs were sailing along with a 4-4 mark. Their final 5-11 record can be traced directly to 15 Tampa Bay players on the injured reserve list when the '78 season ended.

OFFENSE: Manning the offensive controls for the Bucs is Doug Williams, the team's No. 1 pick in last year's college draft and an impressive young signal caller. Last season, although he missed five games with a broken jaw, Williams passed for 1,170 yards and seven touchdowns. "Williams is the best passer I've seen since Norm Van Brocklin," Coach McKay states," and he may be the toughest player to sack I've ever seen."

The primary reserve at quarterback, and a starter in five games last season, is Mike Rae. He was on target with 57 of 118 passes for 705 yards and four TDs in '78. Lending additional experience at the signal calling spot is seven-year veteran Gary Huff.

Although he hasn't received a lot of recognition thus far, the Bucs' pass receiving corps is paced by one of the league's finest deep threats -- Morris Owens. Last season, for the third consecutive year, Owens led the team with 32 receptions, which he carried for 640 yards and five touchdowns.

While Owens is a proven commodity at one wide receiving spot, the search is underway for another quality wideout to match him. A year ago, Larry Mucker, John McKay and Frank Grant saw action at that spot, but combined for only 30 catches. Two players who sat out last season due to injuries, Larry Franklin and Ike Hagins, are both 4.4 speedsters who should add long-range striking ability to the aerial attack if they stay healthy.

1979 Schedule

Sep	1	DETROIT
Sep	9	Baltimore
Sep	16	Green Bay
Sep	23	LOS ANGELES
Sep	30	Chicago
Oct	7	New York Giants
Oct	14	NEW ORLEANS
Oct	21	GREEN BAY
Oct	28	Minnesota
Nov	4	Atlanta
Nov	11	Detroit
Nov	18	NY GIANTS
Nov	25	MINNESOTA
Dec	2	Chicago
Dec	9	San Francisco
Dec	16	KANSAS CITY

Buccaneers	1978 Results	Opp
13	N.Y. Giants	19
7	Detroit	15
16	at Minnesota	10
14	Atlanta	9
7	Minnesota	24
30	at Kansas City	13
14	at N.Y. Giants	17
33	Chicago	19
7	at Green Bay	9
23	at Los Angeles	26
23	at Detroit	34
31	Buffalo	10
3	at Chicago	14
7	Green Bay	17
3	at San Francisco	6
10	New Orleans	17

The Bucs really solidified the tight end position last year when they acquired Jimmy Giles from Houston and Jim Obradovich from San Francisco. In their first campaigns in Tampa Bay, Giles snagged 23 aerials and Obradovich 14. Between them they accounted for five touchdown grabs. Giles is a 240-pounder with exceptional quickness, while the hard-blocking Obradovich is one of nine players on the Tampa Bay roster who played for Coach McKay as a collegian at Southern Cal.

The main weapon on offense figures to be the rushing attack, but only if the fine stable of ball toters avoid injuries. The workhorse will be Ricky Bell, who cruised for 679 yards and six TDs on 185 rushing attempts last season. Bell was on his way to a 1,000-yard rushing season in '78 until injury forced him to sit out the last four games. He's fully recovered now, and has a good shot at reaching that plateau this season.

Sharing the fullbacking spot are Jimmy DuBose and Johnny Davis. Dubose powered for 358 yards and four TDs before going down with a knee injury and missing the last nine games of the '78 campaign. The burly 240-pound Davis filled in from that point on, smashing for 370 yards and three touchdowns, and he blocks with the authority of an interior lineman. Other ball toters on hand are George Ragsdale, an explosive outside running threat when he's healthy, Louis Carter, Charlie White, Dave Farmer and Andy Bolton.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Roberts, Greg	OT	6-4	240	Oklahoma
Jones, Gordon	WR	6-0	182	Pittsburgh
Eckwood, Jerry	WR	6-0	196	Arkansas
Lewis, Reggie	DE	6-5	248	N Texas St
Berns, Rick	RB	6-3	200	Nebraska
Fusina, Chuck	QB	6-1	190	Penn State
Vereen, Henry	WR	5-9	175	Nevada-LV
Rippentrop, Bob	TE	6-3	220	Fresno St
Logan, Dave	DT	6-1	240	Pittsburgh

The offensive line was in a constant state of flux last season because of countless injuries. As a result, center Steve Wilson and tackle David Reavis were the only linemen to start all 16 regular season games in '78, which tells you why the blocking corps suffered from a lack of unity that hindered the attack.

Going head-to-head for starting rights at the other tackle position are Darryl Carlton, a regular until felled by injury in '78, and converted defensive end Charley Hannah. Hannah was a starting DE in 14 games last season, but the Bucs feel he will be more valuable throwing blocks instead of trying to avoid them.

There's a wide-open battle for the guard assignments involving Greg Horton, Garry Puetz, Jeff Winans and Kurt Schumacher -- all of whom saw regular duty in '78. Winans and Schumacher are back in the running after injuries last season cost them their starting jobs, which as a result went to Horton and Puetz. Also available for guard duties are Randy Johnson, Dan Medlin and Brett Moritz.

DEFENSE: While Tampa Bay's offensive unit has struggled since the team first came into pro football, their defensive ounterparts have gotten steadily better. Last season, the Bucs ranked fourth in total defense and sixth in scoring defense amongst NFL teams despite a series of injuries that cost the services of standouts like Lee Roy Selmon.

Flankman Selmon recorded 11 quarterback sacks and 92 tackles last season, although missing the last two games with a knee injury. That knee injury was serious enough to necessitate off-season surgical repairs, and you can be sure the Bucs will be holding their breath until they know Selmon is 100 percent again.

Battling for the other flank position, left up-for-grabs when Charley Hannah shifted to offense, are Wally Chambers and Bill Kollar. Chambers is a former All-Pro with the Chicago Bears, but he

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☐ 100	$175.00	($1.75)	☐ 100	$325.00	($3.25)	☐ 100	$400.00	($100.00)
☐ 200	$325.00	($1.62)	☐ 200	$600.00	($3.00)	☐ 200	$700.00	($225.00)
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hasn't been the same kind of man-eating defender since sustaining a knee injury several years ago.

Anchoring the front wall is nose tackle Dave Pear, who earned a Pro Bowl invitation last season after logging 127 tackles and nine quarterback sacks. Backing him up in the middle is Randy Crowder.

Manning the two inside positions in the four-man linebacking corps are Richard Wood and Dewey Selmon. Last season, Wood led the Bucs with 168 tackles, while Selmon was second with 158 stops. David Lewis and Cecil Johnson occupy the two outside posts, putting the finishing touches on one of the finest linebacking foursomes around.

There's first-rate depth at the two outside 'backer positions with Paul Harris and Dana Nafzier on call. But, on the inside, top replacements Aaron Brown, Rik Bonness, Earl Inmon and Randy Gill don't have a whole lot of experience.

Quite possibly the strongest area on defense, and perhaps on the whole Tampa Bay team, is the secondary. Two of the major reasons are cornerbacks Jeris White and Mike Washington, an excellent pair of young defenders. Last season, White was the leading tackler (103) in the secondary and came up with five pass interceptions, while Washington also picked off five aerials and ran a blocked punt 79-yards to paydirt. Starting with them in the deep zones are free safety Cedric Brown, top pass thief last season with six, and strong safety Mark Cotney, making this area air-tight as far as regulars are concerned.

Not so "air-tight" is reserve strength in the secondary, since Curtis Jordan and Danny Reece are the only backups with more than minimal experience. Three promising (but "green") players who could remedy that if they can bounce back after missing the '78 campaign due to injuries are Jerry Anderson, Billy Cesare and Karl Farmer.

Veteran Dave Green, in his seventh NFL year, takes care of the punting after a 40.9-yard average on 100 kicks last season. Giant-sized placekicker Neil O'Donoghue, who stands 6-6, converted 25 of 29 PATs and 13 of 23 field goals, including 8 of his last 11 field goal attempts in '78.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: No, Coach McKay isn't joshing when he predicts his Bucs could make a run at the NFC Central title this season. However, a more realistic goal for Tampa Bay would be just to get out of the basement. Offensively, the Bucs have the makings of a fairly good balanced attack -- but only if the members of this unit spend more time on the playing field and less on the injured list. Especially important in that respect are QB Williams and RB Bell, who will spearhead a solid attack if they continue improving and avoid getting hurt. The defensive unit is one of the finest in the National Conference when it comes to front-line personnel, but reserve strength doesn't impress us as being adequate to make up the difference should too many regulars sustain injuries. The fourth edition of Buccaneers looks like the finest in their brief history, and finishing with a winning record in '79 is not out of the question. But, as far as the Bucs winning the NFL Central title, we have to believe that would require a small miracle or an act of Congress.

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Tampa Bay Buccaneers 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
31	Anderson, Jerry	DB	5-11	195	26	2	Oklahoma	2
42	Bell, Ricky	HB	6-2	220	24	3	Southern Cal.	12
36	Bolton, Andy	HB	6-1	205	25	4	Fisk	-
53	Bonness, Rik	LB	6-3	220	25	4	Nebraska	16
55	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-2	235	23	2	Ohio State	16
66	Brown, Booker	OG	6-2	275	27	3	Southern Cal	-
34	Brown, Cedric	DB	6-2	200	25	3	Kent State	14
70	Carlton, Darryl	OT	6-5	280	26	5	Tampa	13
32	Carter, Louis	HB	5-11	210	26	5	Maryland	16
44	Cesare, Billy	DB	5-11	190	24	2	Univ. of Miami	10
60	Chambers, Wally	DE	6-6	245	28	6	Eastern Kentucky	12
33	Cotney, Mark	DB	6-0	205	27	5	Cameron State	16
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82	Darby, Alvis	TE	6-5	225	25	2	Florida	6
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22	Farmer, Karl	DB	6-0	165	25	3	Pittsburgh	2
80	Franklin, Larry	WR	6-1	185	24	1	Jackson State	2
88	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	25	3	Alcorn State	16
49	Gill, Randy	LB	6-2	230	23	2	San Jose State	1
83	Grant, Frank	WR	5-11	180	29	7	Ohio	16
4	Green, Dave	P	6-0	210	30	7	Ohio	16
81	Hagins, Isaac	WR	5-9	180	25	3	Southern Univ.	4
73	Hannah, Charley	DE	6-6	255	24	3	Alabama	16
52	Harris, Paul	LB	6-3	220	25	3	Alabama	5
64	Horton, Greg	OG	6-4	245	28	4	Colorado	14
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	200	28	7	Florida State	6
59	Inmon, Earl	LB	6-1	215	25	1	Bethune-Cookman	2
56	Johnson, Cecil	LB	6-2	230	24	3	Pittsburgh	13
65	Johnson, Randy	G	6-2	255	26	3	Georgia	10
25	Jordan, Curtis	DB	6-2	210	25	4	Texas Tech	16
77	Kollar, Bill	DT	6-4	250	27	6	Montana State	16
84	Levenseller, Mike	WR	6-1	180	23	2	Washington State	2
57	Lewis, David	LB	6-4	240	25	3	Southern Cal	16
89	McKay, John	WR	5-11	180	26	4	Southern Cal	15
68	Medlin, Dan	OG	6-4	255	30	6	N. Carolina St.	14
67	Moritz, Brett	OG	6-5	250	24	2	Nebraska	6
87	Mucker, Larry	WR	5-11	185	25	3	Arizona State	16
51	Nafziger, Dana	LB	6-1	225	26	3	Cal Poly Slo	14
6	O'Donoghue, Neil	PK	6-6	205	26	3	Auburn	15
86	Obradovich, Jim	TE	6-2	230	26	5	Southern Cal	16
85	Owens, Morris	WR	6-0	200	26	5	Arizona State	16
76	Pear, Dave	DT	6-2	245	26	5	Washington	16
72	Puetz, Garry	G	6-4	265	27	7	Valparaiso Univ	10
15	Rae, Mike	QB	6-0	195	28	4	Southern Cal	6
23	Ragsdale, George	HB	5-11	185	26	3	No. Carolina A&T	15
75	Reavis, Dave	OT	6-5	265	29	5	Arkansas	16
46	Reece, Danny	DB	5-11	190	24	4	Southern Cal	15
78	Schumacher, Kurt	OG	6-3	255	27	5	Ohio State	4
58	Selmon, Dewey	LB	6-1	245	26	4	Oklahoma	16
63	Selmon, Lee Roy	DE	6-3	255	25	4	Oklahoma	14
40	Washington, Mike	DB	6-3	200	26	4	Alabama	16
28	White, Charlie	FB	6-0	215	26	3	Bethune-Cookman	7
45	White, Jeris	DB	5-11	180	27	6	Hawaii	16
12	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	215	24	2	Grambling	10
50	Wilson, Steve	C	6-3	265	25	4	Georgia	16
62	Winans, Jeff	OG	6-5	260	25	5	Southern Cal	1
54	Wood, Richard	LB	6-2	220	26	5	Southern Cal	16

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Williams	194/73	8	1170	7
Rae	118/57	7	705	4
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Owens	32	640	20.0	5
Giles	23	324	14.1	2
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
G. Brown	6	110	18.3	0
J. White	5	56	11.2	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Bell	185	679	3.7	6
Davis	97	370	3.8	3
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Green	100	4092	40.9	2
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
O'Donoghue	0	25/29	13/23	64
Bell	6	0/0	0/0	36

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	BUCCANEERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	238	256
NET RUSH	2098	2049
Avg Per Game	131.1	128.1
NET PASS	1703	2279
Att/Comp	361/151	419/241
Had Int	18	29
Avg Per Game	106.4	142.4
PUNTS/AVG	102/40.1	97/40.4
Punts Return/Yds	62/512	62/447
Avg Per Return	8.3	7.2
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	57/1095	49/1146
Avg Per Return	19.2	23.4
FUMBLES/LOST	35/20	32/14
FIELD GOALS	14/24	24/31
PATS	25/29	23/27
TOTAL POINTS	241	259

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NFC WEST

Archie Manning, New Orleans Saints.

Los Angeles Rams

(13-5-0)

Misfortune hovered like the smog on Wilshire Boulevard over last year's Rams, who carted off their sixth straight NFC West championship but once again came up a "no-show" in the Super Bowl derby -- losing to the Dallas Cowboys (28-0) in the National Conference title game. But the ultimate misfortune struck during the off-season, when team owner Carroll Rosenbloom drowned while vacationing with his family in Florida.

What made Rosenbloom's demise even more tragic was that he was never able to see his Rams go all the way to the Super Bowl. Entering the '79 NFL campaign, the second under the leadership of Head Coach Ray Malavasi, the Rams certainly have the cut of a title contender, with quality players lined up at just about every offensive and defensive position.

However, in order for the LA gridders to "go the limit" this season, they have to avoid the outbreak of injuries that laid low so many players in '78. The hardest hit part of the team was the corps of running backs, and it's a tribute to the team's great depth that despite those losses, the Rams still finished with the fourth best rushing attack in the NFC.

OFFENSE: While not without his share of critics, the Rams have a fine young quarterback in Pat Haden. Last season, Haden set team records for passing attempts (444), pass completions (229) and aerial yardage (2,995). He also tossed 13 touchdown passes in '78, but surrendered 19 interceptions and got sacked 32 times, the latter two negative statistics due to the sheer number of times Haden had to go "up top" to compensate for the injury losses sustained by the running backs.

The primary back-up at the signal calling spot, Vince Ferragamo, completed only 35% of his passing attempts (7 of 20) in limited action last season. Ferragamo is a third-year pro with a strong throwing arm, although his lack of experience could prove troublesome should he have to take over full-time.

The Rams have a pair of fleet "home run" threats at the wide receiving spots in Willie Miller and Ron Jessie, who caught 50 and 49 passes, respectively, and combined for nine TD catches last season. Most prominent of the back-up wideouts is another flyer, Billy Waddy, who averaged 18.4 yards on 14 catches in '78 and scored once on an 68-yard bomb. Great quickness is also possesed by the other available wide receivers -- Dwight Scales, Preston Dennard, Larry Marshall and Ron Smith.

Thundering out of the tight end spot is rugged six-year pro Terry Nelson, who hauled 23 pass receptions for 344 yards last season. He is capably supported by Charlie Young, who added 18 catches in '78. In addition to being competent short-range receivers, Nelson and Young are also savage blockers.

Several times earlier, we made reference to injuries which riddled the ball toting brigade last season. The most serious loss was Lawrence McCutcheon, who sat out eight games in '78 and wound up with just 420 yards on 118 carries. That was the lowest rushing total in McCutcheon's six years with the Rams, but he still goes into the '79 campaign as the team's leading all-time rusher with

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	OAKLAND
Sep	6	Denver
Sep	16	SAN FRANCISCO
Sep	23	Tampa Bay
Sep	30	ST. LOUIS
Oct	7	New Orleans
Oct	14	Dallas
Oct	21	SAN DIEGO
Oct	28	NY GIANTS
Nov	4	Seattle
Nov	11	Chicago
Nov	19	ATLANTA
Nov	25	San Francisco
Dec	2	MINNESOTA
Dec	9	Atlanta
Dec	16	NEW ORLEANS

Rams	1978 Results	Opp
16	at Philadelphia	14
10	Atlanta	0
27	Dallas	14
10	at Houston	6
26	at New Orleans	20
27	San Francisco	10
34	at Minnesota	17
3	New Orleans	10
7	at Atlanta	15
26	Tampa Bay	23
10	Pittsburgh	7
31	at San Francisco	28
19	at Cleveland	30
20	at N.Y. Giants	17
19	Cincinnati	20
31	Green Bay	14

Los Angeles Rams 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
90	Brooks, Larry	DT	6-3	254	29	8	Va. St.-Petersburg	14
25	Brown, Eddie	S/KR	5-11	190	27	5	Tennessee	1
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	231	24	3	Ohio State	16
32	Bryant, Cullen	FB	6-1	234	28	7	Colorado	16
22	Cappelletti, John	FB	6-1	220	27	6	Penn State	14
3	Corral, Frank	K	6-2	220	24	2	UCLA	16
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	197	24	3	Kansas	16
28	Davis, Anthony	R B / K R	5-9	187	27	3	USC	4
88	Dennard, Preston	WR	6-1	185	24	2	New Mexico	11
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	267	23	2	Hampton Institute	16
89	Dryer, Fred	DE	6-6	230	33	11	San Diego State	16
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	223	25	4	San Jose State	16
42	Elmendorf, Dave	S	6-1	196	30	9	Texas A & M	16
79	Fanning, Mike	DT	6-6	248	26	5	Notre Dame	16
15	Ferragamo, Vince	QB	6-3	207	25	3	Nebraska	9
77	France, Doug	T	6-5	288	26	5	Ohio State	16
68	Fulton, Ed	G	6-3	250	24	2	Maryland	4
11	Haden, Pat	QB	5-11	180	26	4	USC	16
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	251	26	5	Miami (FL)	15
81	Jessie, Ron	WR	6-0	181	31	9	Kansas	16
43	Jodat, Jim	FB/KR	5-11	207	25	3	Carthage	16
76	Jones, Cody	DT	6-5	244	28	6	San Jose State	16
24	Latin, Jerry	RB/KR	5-10	187	26	5	Northern Illinois	16
44	Marshall, Larry	KR	5-10	195	29	8	Maryland	5
30	McCutcheon, Lawrence	RB	6-1	205	29	7	Colorado State	8
50	McLain, Kevin	LB	6-2	227	25	4	Colorado State	16
82	Miller, Willie	WR	5-9	172	31	4	Colorado State	16
83	Nelson, Terry	TE	6-2	241	28	6	Arkansas AM & N	13
33	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB	6-1	190	25	2	San Jose State	13
49	Perry, Rod	CB	5-9	177	26	5	Colorado	16
39	Phillips, Rod	FB	6-0	221	27	5	Jackson State	15
64	Reynolds, Jack	LB	6-1	231	32	10	Tennessee	16
58	Robertson, Isiah	LB	6-3	224	30	9	Southern U	13
54	Ryczek, Dan	C	6-3	245	30	7	Virginia	16
61	Saul, Rich	C	6-3	243	31	10	Michigan State	16
87	Scales, Dwight	WR	6-2	182	26	4	Grambling	13
48	Simpson, Bill	S	6-1	194	28	6	Michigan State	16
78	Slater, Jackie	G/T	6-4	269	25	4	Jackson State	16
56	Smith, Doug	C/G	6-3	250	23	2	Bowling Green	16
84	Smith, Ron	WR	6-0	185	23	2	San Diego State	16
27	Thomas, Pat	CB	5-9	184	25	4	Texas A & M	16
26	Tyler, Wendell	RB/KR	5-10	188	24	2	UCLA	2
80	Waddy, Billy	WR/KR	5-11	180	25	3	Colorado	11
19	Walker, Glen	P	6-1	207	27	3	USC	16
20	Wallace, Jackie	S/KR	6-3	196	28	6	Arizona	14
75	Williams, John	T	6-3	256	34	12	Minnesota	16
86	Young, Charles	TE	6-4	234	28	7	USC	16
85	Youngblood, Jack	DE	6-4	243	29	9	Florida	16
53	Youngblood, Jim	LB	6-3	231	29	7	Tennessee Tech	16

5,943 yards.

The No. 1 rusher in '78, bullish Cullen Bryant, crashed for 658 yards and seven TDs on the ground, while reliable veteran John Cappelletti rambled for 604 yards and finished third on the team with 41 pass reception. At the end of last season, the other running backs were Jim Jodat, Rod Phillips, Jerry Latin and Anthony Davis, but their status is questionable now that Elvis Peacock and Wendell Tyler are back after missing '78 with injuries. Peacock and Tyler are both jet-propelled ball toters blessed with the speed to run outside, which is the one thing the rushing attack needs most.

How good is LA's offensive interior line? Well, four members of this strong-blocking group were selected to play in the last Pro Bowl, and they open up holes big enough for a herd of elephants to get through. However, this year a replacement must be found for retired guard Tom Mack, one of the premier down linemen in NFL history -- and that doesn't figure to be an easy task!

Solid as the Rock Of Gibraltar at the other guard is Dennis Harrah, named a starter in the last Pro Bowl. Mack's old spot will be contested for by Doug Smith, Jackie Slater and Ed Fulton, the latter back in tow after missing all but four games with injuries last season. Fulton is a good prospect and the logical choice to claim that starting job if he can stay in one piece, while Slater is a powerful blocker who can also play tackle.

Filling the tackle holes are Pro Bowler Doug France and John Williams, but if Slater winds up moving to guard, reserve strength at tackle will be seriously depleted. Yet another Pro Bowl standout, Rich Saul, is over the ball at center, while backstopping him is seven-year pro Dan Ryczek, a former starter with the Tampa Bay Bucs acquired in a '78 trade.

DEFENSE: Once again, Ram defenders turned in an outstanding performance last season, leading the NFL in total defense. In seven games a year ago, Los Angeles held opponents to less than 100 yards rushing, and six times limited enemy passers to less than 200 yards -- which underscores how consistently tough the LA stop troops are to make any headway against by land, air or even parcel post!

Up front, protecting the flanks are Jack Youngblood and Fred Dryer, who teamed up for 13 quarterback sacks last season. Youngblood has never missed a regular season game in his eight years with the Rams, and he's been picked for the Pro Bowl roster the past six years. However, it appears he and Dryer will have to remain just as injury-free, since the sole back-up at the flanks is second-year pro Reggie Doss, mostly a Special Teams player as a rookie in '78 and, therefore, hardly seasoned enough to fill such large shoes.

Blasting enemy ball carriers and gobbling up enemy passers form one tackle spot is Larry Brooks, credited with eight sacks and 60 solo tackles last season despite missing playing time due to injury. Just coming into his own as a solid all-around "pit" operati e at the opposite tackle is Cody Jones, rounding out what is unquestionably one of the premier front fours in the business. Mike Fanning is a capable reserve at tackle, having played in all 16 regular season games in '78.

There's no let-up in quality at the linebacking positions, with aptly-nicknamed Jack (Hacksaw) Reynolds cutting up enemy ball carriers from the middle spot. One outside 'backer position is the private domain of Jim Youngblood, leading tackler last season with 123 stops to his credit. The other outside post will be filled by Bob Brudzinski, who started for the first time in '78 and demonstrated his big-play ability by running an intercepted pass back 31-yards for a touchdown.

Former regular Isiah Robertson, who lost out to Brudzinski last year, will be the most experienced reserve. However, Robertson has asked to be traded and he'll probably get his wish, leaving Kevin McClain as the only experienced back-up at the corners. Supplying solid depth in the middle is Carl Ekern, a tough four-year pro.

Throwing into LA's defensive secondary can be hazardous to the health and job security of enemy quarterbacks, with light-fingered pass thiefs like cornerbacks Rod Perry and Pat Thomas on the prowl. Last season, Perry and Thomas had eight pass interceptions apiece, with Perry running three of his thefts all the way back for touchdowns and Thomas returning one to paydirt. Nolan Cromwell, who can also help out at safety, and Dwayne O'Steen are chief reserves at the cornerback positions.

The last outposts on defense are also capably protected by strong safety Dave Elmendorf and free safety Bill Simpson, who teamed up for eight pass interceptions last season. Along with the aforementioned Cromwell, on call for fill-in duty at safety is Jackie Wallace, who led the National Conference in punt returns with an 11.9 yard average in '78.

The Rams hit the jackpot last year when they used a third round pick in the college draft to select placekicker Frank Corral. He finished as the NFL's leading scorer with 118 points -- 31 of 33 PATs and 29 of 43 field goals. Glen Walker, who averaged 37.0 yards-per-kick last season, takes care of punting duties.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Again last season, the Rams fell just one game short of reaching the Super Bowl. Heading into the '79 NFL campaign, the LA gridders have to rate as a National Conference title contender once more, and quite obviously, are the "team to beat" in the NFC West Division. On offense, the Rams have all the ingredients for a balanced and powerful attack, but only if a potentially superb corps of running backs avoid injuries. Quarterback Haden is a fine, though often underrated, field general, although we doubt he'll be passing as much as last season now that the components of the rushing attack are back in place. The offensive interior line lost standout Tom Mack to retirement but this is still a star-studded blocking corps. Just as "star'studded" is the defensive unit, which will continue to be the real backbone of the team, provided injuries

Los Angeles Rams Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Andrews, George	LB	6-4	210	Nebraska
Hill, Kent	OT	6-6	265	Georgia Tech
Hill, Eddie	RB	6-0	195	Memphis St
Moore, Jeff	WR	6-1	200	Tennessee
Wellman, Mike	C	6-4	240	Kansas
Tucker, Derwin	DB	6-3	190	Illinois
Wilkinson, Jerry	DT	6-8	250	Oregon St
Hicks, Victor	TE	6-4	230	Oklahoma
Delaney, Jeff	DB	6-0	190	Pittsburgh
Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-2	195	Alabama
Ebensberger, Grady	DT	6-4	250	Houston
Deramus, Jesse	DT	6-5	245	Tennessee St
Hill, Drew	WR	5-10	170	Georgia Tech

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Haden	444/229	19	2995	13
Ferragano	20/7	2	114	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Miller	50	767	15.3	5
Jessie	49	752	15.3	4
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Perry	8	117	14.6	3
Thomas	8	96	12.0	1
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Bryant	178	658	3.7	7
Capelletti	174	604	3.5	3
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Walker	83	3069	37.0	2
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Corral	0	31/33	29/43	118
Bryant	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	RAMS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	301	229
NET RUSH	2308	1845
Avg Per Game	144.3	115.3
NET PASS	2874	2048
Att/Comp	466/236	392/188
Had Int	22	28
Avg Per Game	179.6	128.0
PUNTS/AVG	85/36.1	104/38.0
Punts Return/Yds	67/713	38/223
Avg Per Return	10.0	5.9
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	52/1055	64/1335
Avg Per Return	20.2	20.9
FUMBLES/LOST	39/22	33/15
FIELD GOALS	29/43	17/26
PATS	31/33	26/28
TOTAL POINTS	316	245

are held down -- especially in the front wall. Coach Ray Malavasi, who took the reins in '78 following the hiring-and-firing of George Allen, leads a powerful LA club into the new campaign. A team which should easily extend its title reign to seven in the NFL West. What of the Rams' aspirations for the Super Bowl? Well, outside of the Dallas Cowboys, Los Angeles has probably the best shot at walking off with the conference title. So don't be surprised if once again it comes down to a Rams-Cowboys showdown for the Super Bowl berth opposite the AFC champions.

New Orleans Saints

(7-9-0)

Is that the light at the end of the tunnel? Have the Saints, coming off their best one-season performance in team history, at long last turned the corner toward respectability? Stay tuned for the answers to those questions, as Coach Dick Nolan's determined young gridders head into the '79 NFL campaign with the following battle-cry: "The Saints ARE Marching!"

Looking back at last season, when the Saints came damned close (oops!) *darned close* to logging their first winning record ever, there's certainly justification for the team's sunny outlook. "We still need help in certain areas," Coach Nolan ascertains, "but we had some people come along pretty quick last year."

One of the players who made great strides in '78, though hardly a newcomer, was quarterback Archie Manning, the triggerman for one of the most high-powered passing attacks in pro football. Early in his career, when both he and the team were going through their growing pains, Manning endured some pretty rough moments. But last season, on his way to earning NFC Offensive Player-Of-The-Year honors, the big redhead from Ole Miss turned in the kind of banner all-around performance that removed any doubt he's one of the premier field generals in the game.

OFFENSE: Via the passing lanes in '78, Manning riddled enemy defenses for 3,416 yards and 17 touchdowns while completing an impressive 61 percent (291-471) of his aerial attempts. Entering his ninth year as a pro, Manning has the perfect blend of talent and moxie that goes into the making of a first-class quarterback, provided the nagging injuries that plagued him in the past are exactly that -- a thing of the past!

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	ATLANTA
Sep	9	Green Bay
Sep	16	PHILADELPHIA
Sep	23	San Francisco
Sep	30	NY GIANTS
Oct	7	LOS ANGELES
Oct	14	Tampa Bay
Oct	21	DETROIT
Oct	28	Washington
Nov	4	Denver
Nov	11	SAN FRANCISCO
Nov	18	Seattle
Nov	25	Atlanta
Dec	3	OAKLAND
Dec	9	SAN DIEGO
Dec	16	Los Angeles

Coach Nolan is farily confident that, should the need arise, No. 2 signal caller Bobby Scott can step in and keep the offense rolling along in high gear. However, we don't share the skipper's confidence in Scott, nor do we feel third-string quarterback Ed Burns (who?) has what it takes to handle the starting assignment. So, if Manning suffers a flare-up of his old injury problems this season, look for the offense to go into a tail-spin.

The Saints rolled up an average of 196.9 yards-per-game through the air last season and you don't roll up those kind of stats without a first-rate receiving corps. Six different players caught 20 or more passes in '78, paced by running back Tony Galbreath, who finished second in the entire NFL with 74 catches. But in our opinion, the two most impressive pass grabbers on hand are tight end Henry Childs and wide receiver Wes Chandler.

Saints	1978 Results	Opp
31	Minnesota	24
17	at Green Bay	28
17	Philadelphia	24
20	at Cincinnati	18
20	Los Angeles	26
16	Cleveland	24
14	at San Francisco	7
10	at Los Angeles	3
28	N.Y. Giants	17
14	at Pittsburgh	20
17	Atlanta	20
7	at Dallas	27
17	at Atlanta	20
24	San Francisco	13
12	Houston	17
17	at Tampa Bay	10

Last season, Childs galloped for 869 yards (most by any tight end in the league) on 53 receptions, including four touchdown catches. With another banner year like that, the Pro Bowl voters just won't be able to overlook Childs any longer. Wide receiver Chandler, a superb athlete and New Orleans' No. 1 pick in last year's college draft, started slowly as a rookie in '78. But once he got his footing, the speedy Chandler came on like a whirlwind to wind up with 35 receptions for 472 yards and two TDs.

As much ability as Chandler has, he'll probably still have to share playing time with fellow wide receivers Ike Harris and Tinker Owens. A year ago, Harris and Owens caught 40 passes apiece and combined for six scoring receptions. The reserves are led by wide receiver Rich Mauti, the pugnacious leader of the Special Teams, and a pair of second-year tight ends with good promise -- Larry Hardy and Brooks Williams. Hardy caught only five passes as a rookie, but turned one of those into a 71-yard scoring burst.

The previously cited Tony Galbreath, in addition to his 74 pass receptions in '78, also led the team in rushing with 635 yards on 186 carries. Not far behind was his running mate, Chuck Muncie, who powered for 575 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground last season. Galbreath and Muncie, if they continue to develop and avoid injuries, have the potential to be the best 1-2 running punch in all of pro football.

First off the bench should either of them need a breather will be Mike Strachan, who rambled for 388 yards and rushed for four TDs last season. However, reserve strength once you get past Strachan is not so promising -- Jack Holmes, Kim Jones and Jim Van Wagner. Jones was the only one of that trio who saw much action in '78, and he was hardly overworked with nine rushing

New Orleans Saints Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Erxleben, Russell	K	6-4	206	Texas
Mathis, Reggie	LB	6-3	205	Oklahoma
Kovach, Jim	LB	6-3	216	Kentucky
Huckleby, Harlan	RB	6-2	195	Michigan
Ray, Ricky	DB	6-1	185	Norfolk St
Sytsma, Stan	LB	6-3	230	Minnesota
Panfil, Doug	OG	6-5	250	Tulsa
Hall, David	WR	6-2	190	Missouri-Rolla
Finch, Kelsey	RB	6-0	203	Tennessee

New Orleans Saints 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
77	Anderson, Gary	G	6-3	250	24	2	Stanford	1
63	Bennett, Barry	DT	6-4	257	23	2	Concordia	16
16	Blanchard, Tom	P	6-0	180	30	9	Oregon	16
50	Bordelon, Ken	LB	6-4	226	25	3	Louisiana State	0
27	Brown, Ray	SS	6-2	202	30	9	West Texas State	16
11	Burns, Ed	QB	6-3	210	25	2	Nebraska	0
73	Campbell, Joe	DE	6-6	254	24	3	Maryland	16
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	5-11	186	23	2	Florida	16
24	Chapman, Clarence	CB	5-10	185	26	4	Eastern Michigan	14
85	Childs, Henry	TE	6-2	220	28	6	Kansas State	16
51	Crosby, Ron	LB	6-3	225	24	3	Penn State	14
76	Darrow, Barry	T	6-7	260	29	6	Montana	16
66	Dobler, Conrad	G	6-3	255	29	8	Wyoming	3
58	Federspiel, Joe	LB	6-2	230	29	8	Kentucky	16
20	Felton, Eric	CB	6-0	200	24	2	Texas Tech	16
69	Fifer, Bill	G	6-4	250	24	2	West Texas State	4
72	Fultz, Mike	DT	6-5	278	25	3	Nebraska	12
34	Galbreath, Tony	FB	6-1	230	25	4	Missouri	16
78	Grooms, Elois	DE	6-4	250	26	5	Tennessee Tech	16
87	Hardy, Larry	TE	6-3	230	23	2	Jackson State	16
82	Harris, Ike	WR	6-3	210	27	5	Iowa State	15
62	Hill, John	C	6-2	246	29	8	Lehigh	16
45	Holmes, Jack	HB	5-11	210	26	2	Texas Southern	11
54	Hughes, Pat	LB	6-2	225	32	10	Boston	16
76	Hunt, Kevin	T	6-5	260	31	9	Doane	10
32	Jones, Kim	FB	6-4	235	27	4	Colorado State	16
53	Kingrea, Rick	LB	6-1	222	30	8	Tulane	1
64	Lafary, Dave	G	6-7	280	24	3	Purdue	15
8	Manning, Archie	QB	6-3	200	30	9	Mississippi	16
84	Mauti, Rich	WR	6-0	190	25	3	Penn State	16
49	McGill Ralph	FS	5-11	178	29	8	Tulsa	16
57	Merlo, Jim	LB	6-1	220	28	6	Stanford	16
70	Meseroll, Mark	T	6-5	270	24	2	Florida State	16
10	Mike-Mayer, Steve	K	6-0	180	32	5	Maryland	9
74	Moore, Derland	DT	6-4	253	28	7	Oklahoma	15
42	Muncie, Chuck	HB	6-3	220	26	4	California	13
37	Myers, Tom	FS	6-0	180	29	8	Syracuse	16
83	Owens, Tinker	WR	5-11	170	25	3	Oklahoma	14
75	Price, Elex	DT	6-3	265	29	7	Alcorn State	16
60	Reese, Don	DE	6-6	250	28	5	Jackson State	14
55	Rice, Floyd	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Alcorn State	15
48	Schwartz, Don	SS	6-1	191	23	2	Washington State	16
12	Scott, Bobby	QB	6-1	197	30	8	Tennessee	1
29	Spencer, Maurice	CB	6-0	176	27	5	North Car. Central	16
26	Stewart, Jimmy	SS	5-11	190	25	2	Tulsa	0
33	Strachan, Mike	HB	6-0	200	26	5	Iowa State	15
68	Sturt, Fred	G	6-4	255	28	5	Bowling Green	12
15	Szaro, Rich	K	5-11	204	31	5	Harvard	4
71	Taylor, J.T.	T	6-4	265	23	2	Missouri	16
52	Vanderbundt, Skip	LB	6-3	222	33	11	Oregon State	15
35	VanWagner, James	HB	6-0	202	24	2	Michigan Tech	5
67	Watson, John	T	6-4	244	30	9	Oklahoma	5
61	Watson, Mike	T	6-6	275	24	2	Miami, (O)	0
88	Williams, Brooks	TE	6-4	226	25	2	North Carolina	16
65	Woods, Robert	G	6-4	259	29	7	Tennesse State	16
79	Zanders, Emanuel	G	6-1	248	28	6	Jackson State	3

attempts for 31 yards.

The offensive interior line has excellent potential, provided stalwarts like Conrad Dobler and Emanuel Zanders return at full-strength after missing last season because of injuries. Dobler and Zanders could form a new tandem at the guard spots if they're back at 100 percent again, which means Fred Sturt and Dave Lafary -- starters most of '78 -- will be relegated to reserve roles once more.

Leading the blocking charge is center John Hill, one of the better pivots in the NFC, while J. T. Taylor is a fixture at one tackle position after winning All-Rookie accolades last year. There's a pitched battle shaping up for the other tackle assignment, pitting Robert Woods, John Watson and Barry Darrow, the latter acquired via an off-season trade with the Cleveland Browns. But the man who should win the starting job is Roger Finnie, acquired in a trade with the St. Louis Cardinals. Others available for line duty are tackles Kevin Hunt, Mike Watson and Gary Anderson, guard Bill Fifer and center Mark Meseroll.

DEFENSE: Coach Nolan installed a "Flex Defense" last season, similar to the one employed by the two-time NFC champion Dallas Cowboys. And while the Saints' defensive unit still has a long way to go before they'll play the "Flex" as well as the Cowboys, they should get progressively tougher to penetrate with leaders like tackle Elex Price, middle linebacker Joe Federspiel and free safety Tommy Myers.

Tackle Price, a 265-pound roadblock in the middle of the front wall, got in on 104 total tackles last season and sacked enemy quarterbacks seven times. Opposite him at the other tackle is gutsy Derland Moore, who came back from two knee operations to play solid "D" in '78. Keeping Moore on his best behavior will be back-ups Mike Fultz and Barry Bennett.

Pouring in from the line flanks to make things hot for enemy passers are Elois Grooms and Joe Campbell, who recorded seven sacks each last season. Backing them up is ex-Miami Dolphin regular Don Reese, acquired in a '78 trade and a potential starter now that he's acclimated.

Middle linebacker Federspiel, leading tackler on the team (157 total) last season for the fourth consecutive year, is the tempo-setter for the 'backer corps. Protecting the two outside spots are veterans Jim Merlo and Pat Hughes, with experienced back-ups Skip Vanderbundt and Floyd Rice, former regulars with the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders, respectively. Also on call are Ron Crosby, Ken Bordelon and Rick Kingrea, although Bordelon and Kingrea must rebound after missing last season because of injuries.

Calling shots in the deep zones is free safety Tommy Myers, who returned one of his six pass interceptions for a touchdown last season and paced the secondary players with 121 total tackles. Lining up at strong safety is Ray Brown, who came up with four pass thefts in '78 after coming to the Saints in a trade with the Atlanta Falcons. The most seasoned back-up at safety is Ralph McGill, and there's also youthful potential in second-year pros Don Schwartz and Jimmy (Mad Dog) Stewart.

Stationed at the cornerback positions are Maurice Spencer and Clarence Chapman, both tenacious defenders credited with an aggregate 54 pass deflections last season. And don't underestimate that statistic, because many times, a pass deflection can be just as beneficial as an interception. At present, the lone reserve at cornerback is Eric Felton, in just his second NFL year, so you can look for the Saints to make a trade or two to strengthen this area.

At the end of last season, Tom Blanchard (42.0-yard average) was the punting specialist, while Steve Mike-

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Manning	471/291	16	3416	17
Scott	5/3	0	36	0
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Galbreath	74	582	7.9	2
Childs	53	869	16.4	4
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Meyers	6	167	27.8	1
Spencer	4	83	20.7	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Galbreath	186	635	3.4	5
Muncie	160	575	3.6	7
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Blanchard	84	3532	42.0	2
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Galbreath	7	0/1	0/0	42
Muncie	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	SAINTS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	295	286
NET RUSH	1845	2403
Avg Per Game	115.3	150.2
NET PASS	3151	2464
Att/Comp	479/294	418/214
Had Int	16	21
Avg Per Game	196.9	154.0
PUNTS/AVG	86/41.1	71/40.1
Punts Return/Yds	36/233	59/528
Avg Per Return	6.5	8.9
KICKOFF - RET/YDS	65/1384	53/1035
Avg Per Return	21.3	19.5
FUMBLES/LOST	32/17	37/20
FIELD GOALS	12/23	22/32
PATS	33/34	32/33
TOTAL POINTS	281	298

Mayer (18-18 on PATs; 6-13 on FGs) had the placekicker's job. Blanchard is an iron-legged veteran secure in his position, but Mike-Mayer faces stiff competition from Rich Szaro, completely mended and anxious to re-claim the placement duties after missing last season with a leg injury.

GAMEPLAH CONCLUSION: Well, here we go again! A couple of times in the past, GAMEPLAN has gone out on a limb and predicted bigger-and-better things for the Saints only to have them let us down. But we're beating the drums for them once more. Which isn't surprising, really, when you take a careful look at the number of fine players the Saints have on both offense and defense. Archie Manning's "arrival" as a bonafide star at QB has cemented together an offensive unit with explosive potential, so long as the "guts" of the attack (the blocking corps) isn't hit by another injury plague. There's a goodly amount of talent on the defensive side as well, and this gang is going to be downright mean and inhospitable with a little more experience and overall cohesion. The talented, but hitherto erratic Saints, *at long last* seem to be gelling under the Dick Nolan administration. However, it would take some kind of miracle for them to reward their long-suffering fans with a title in the NFC's West Division. It's very unlikely New Orleans or anything less than a 50-megaton blast will knock the Los Angeles Rams off the top rung, but a second place finish (and a possible Wild Card berth) certainly are very possible for the Saints. Now, c'mon fellas, don't let us down again.

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Atlanta Falcons

(10-8-0)

Destiny was on the side of last year's Falcons, who pulled out last-minute victories in six of their regular season games, followed by a nail-biting 14-13 playoff win over the Philadelphia Eagles. Granted, the Falcons did run out of miracles in their next playoff game, losing 27-20 to Dallas, but the Cowboys are such a powerful team they can make their own destiny.

Last year's playoff appearance by the Falcons was the first by the club since they came into the NFL as an expansion team in 1966, and the youthful make-up of this club points toward a bright future. Coach Leeman Bennett and his staff, who took over the storm-tossed Falcons three years ago, have done an outstanding job in their short tenure, and Atlanta will go into the '79 season as a genuine threat to the Los Angeles Rams' title domination in the NFC's West Division.

OFFENSE: Barking signals for a young and rapidly improving offense is quarterback Steve Bartkowski, who enjoyed his finest season as a pro in '78. Once Bartkowski shook off the effects of an early injury last season, he firmly established himself as the starting signal caller and wound up tossing completions on 187 of 369 aerials for 2,489 yards and 10 touchdowns. Entering his fifth NFL campaign, Bart is just beginning to realize his potential, and he should be a standout for years to come if he can avoid the injuries that have so often hampered him in the past.

Next in line at quarterback is June Jones, who filled in when Bartkowski was laid-low by injury in '78 and helped the Falcons to wins over Houston (20-14) and the LA Rams (15-7, second meeting). Overall last year, Jones was no great shakes as a passer (34-79 for 43 percent), but he demonstrated good leadership ability and a willingness to improve. Also on hand is Scott Hunter, formerly a regular with Atlanta but inactive all last season when he didn't play a single down.

The Falcons are both talented and deep in the receiving corps, led by starting wideouts Wallace Francis and Billy

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	New Orleans
Sep	10	Philadelphia
Sep	16	DENVER
Sep	23	Detroit
Sep	30	WASHINGTON
Oct	7	Green Bay
Oct	14	Oakland
Oct	21	San Francisco
Oct	29	SEATTLE
Nov	4	TAMPA BAY
Nov	11	NY Giants
Nov	19	Los Angeles
Nov	25	NEW ORLEANS
Dec	2	San Diego
Dec	9	LOS ANGELES
Dec	16	SAN FRANCISCO

Falcons	1978 Results	Opp
20	Houston	14
0	at Los Angeles	10
16	Cleveland	24
9	at Tampa Bay	14
23	N.Y. Giants	20
7	at Pittsburgh	31
14	Detroit	0
20	at San Francisco	17
15	Los Angeles	7
21	San Francisco	10
20	at New Orleans	17
7	at Chicago	13
20	New Orleans	17
7	at Cincinnati	37
20	Washington	17
21	at St. Louis	42

Ryckman, who caught 45 aerials each last season and had an aggregate five scoring receptions. However, they'll both have to stay on their toes because lurking in the background are Alfred Jackson and Alfred Jenkins. Last year, as a rookie, Jackson exploded for an average of 20.2 yards and scored twice on 26 catches. Jenkins, the team's leading receiver three consecutive years ('75, '76 and '77) missed most of last season due to injury, and he'll be a candidate for starting duties now that he's healthy again. One other wide receiver deserving of mention is speedy Dennis Pearson, the second ranking kickoff return man in the NFL with a 26.7 yard average and a 100-yard scoring run in '78.

Handling tight end duties is rugged veteran Jim Mitchell, who galloped for 366 yards and two TDs on 32 pass receptions last season. Backing him up are Lewis Gilbert and James Wright, both second-year pros with good promise but limited experience.

Last year, when they rushed for only 103.7 yards-per-game, the Falcons ranked next-to-last among NFL teams in that category. So it's obvious which area of the offense needs the most work. Tops on the '78 rushing chart was Bubba Bean, who sprinted for 707 yards on 193 carries and scored three times via the ground route. Bean is a former No. 1 Falcon draft pick ('76) with tremendous acceleration and long-distance scoring ability, but so far, recurrent injuries have prevented him from really putting it all together.

Haskel Stanbeck, who belted for 588 yards and rushed for five TDs last season, is a tough inside ball carrier stationed at the other running back. Reserve ball toters on hand include Ricky Patton, Ray Strong, Mike Esposito and George Franklin -- hardly what you'd call a dazzling array of talent.

Up front, in the offensive interior line, the hub is veteran center Jeff Van Note, who lends maturity to an otherwise youthful blocking corps. Lining up next to him at the guards are R.C. Thielemann and Dave Scott, while plugging the tackle holes will be Warren Bryant and Mike Kenn. Bryant is a superb pass protector who missed most of the '78 action with an injury, but he's young enough to bounce back.

While the Falcons have good strength in the starting corps of blockers, the only reserves who look experienced enough to really be helpful are Phil McKinley, who filled in for Bryant at tackle in '78, Marv Montgomery and Paul Ryczek. Which indicates the importance of keeping the line regulars healthy if the Falcons want to pack a strong offensive punch.

DEFENSE: "Organized Confusion." That's the modus operandi on defense for the Falcons, who employ a swarming, blitzing style that keeps opponents off balance. The chief exponents of that style are the linebackers, an aggressive bunch of head-knockers nicknamed the "Grits Blitz" by Atlanta fans.

Setting the pace for the 'backer corps is tough veteran Greg Brezina, who led the team with 10 quarterback sacks last season and played his usual brand of super defense. Brezina mans one outside linebacking spot, while starting opposite him is Fulton Kuykendall, a wide-ranging standout nicknamed "Captain Crazy" because of his non-stop hustle and savage hitting.

There's a battle shaping up for starting rights at middle linebacker, pitting '78 regular Robert Pennywell against Ralph Ortega, the starter in the middle until sidelined by an injury last season. Supplying excellent depth at the 'backer positions are Steve Stewart, Ron McCartney and Dewey McClain.

Atlanta Falcons Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Smith, Don	DE	6-4	250	Miami, Fla.
Howell, Pat	OG	6-5	252	South'n Cal
Mayberry, James	RB	5-11	191	Colorado
Andrews, William	RB	5-11	191	Auburn
Cain, Lynn	RB	6-1	204	South'n Cal
Johnson, Charles	DB	6-2	190	Grambling
Zele, Mike	DT	6-3	255	Kent State
Moroski, Mike	QB	6-3	200	Cal-Davis
Westlund, Roger	OT	6-4	250	Washington
Parkin, Dave	DB	6-0	184	Utah State
Beekley, Bruce	LB	6-2	215	Oregon
Leer, Bill	C	6-5	240	Colorado St
Walker, Stuart	LB	6-2	210	Colorado

Atlanta Falcons 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	AGE	YR	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
61	Adams, Brent	T	6-5	256	4	27	Tenn-Chatt.	0
72	Bailey, Jim	DT	6-5	260	10	31	Kansas	16
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	213	5	27	California	14
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	3	25	Texas A&M	15
50	Brezina, Greg	LB	6-1	221	12	33	Houston	16
66	Bryant, Warren	T	6-6	270	3	24	Kentucky	13
38	Byas, Rick	S	5-9	180	6	29	Wayne State	16
97	Cabral, Brian	LB	6-0	209	1	23	Colorado	0
32	Easterling, Ray	S	6-0	192	7	30	Richmond	2
26	Esposito, Mike	RB	6-0	183	4	26	Boston College	16
74	Faumuina, Wilson	DT	6-5	275	3	25	San Jose State	16
77	Fields, Edgar	DT-DE	6-2	255	3	25	Texas A&M	16
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	190	7	28	Arkansas AM&N	16
40	Franklin, George	RB	6-3	226	2	25	Texas A&I	15
88	Gilbert, Lewis	TE	6-4	225	2	23	Florida	4
36	Glazebrook, Bob	S-CB	6-1	200	2	23	Fresno State	8
16	Hunter, Scott	QB	6-1	205	9	32	Alabama	0
85	Jackson, Alfred	WR	5-11	176	2	24	Texas	15
30	Jackson, Ernie	CB	5-10	176	8	29	Duke	16
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	8	30	Florida	16
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-10	172	4	27	Morris Brown	1
14	Jones, June	QB	6-4	200	3	26	Portland State	7
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-6	257	2	23	Michigan	16
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-5	225	5	26	UCLA	16
22	Lawrence, Rolland	CB	5-10	179	7	28	Tabor	16
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4	261	9	30	Arkansas AM&N	16
4	Mazzetti, Tim	K	6-1	175	2	23	Pennsylvania	10
56	McCartney, Ron	LB	6-1	220	3	25	Tennessee	15
52	McClain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	4	25	East Central Oklahoma	16
72	McKinnely, Phil	T	6-4	248	4	25	UCLA	14
75	Merrow, Jeff	DE	6-4	230	5	26	West Virginia	14
86	Mitchell, Jim	TE	6-1	236	11	32	Prairie View	16
71	Montgomery, Marv	T	6-6	255	9	31	Southern California	1
45	Moriarty, Tom	S	6-0	185	3	26	Bowling Green	14
55	Oretega, Ralph	LB	6-2	220	5	26	Florida	15
33	Patton, Ricky	RB	5-11	185	2	25	Jackson State	16
81	Pearson, Dennis	WR	5-11	177	2	24	San Diego State	13
59	Pennywell, Robert	LB	6-1	222	4	25	Grambling	15
27	Pridemore, Tom	S	5-10	186	2	23	West Virginia	16
28	Reed, Frank	CB	5-11	193	4	25	Washington	16
82	Ryckman, Billy	WR	5-11	172	3	24	Louisiana Tech	16
53	Ryczek, Paul	C	6-2	230	6	27	Virginia	16
70	Scott, Dave	T	6-4	285	4	26	Kansas	16
24	Stanback, Haskel	RB	6-0	210	6	27	Tennessee	15
58	Stewart, Steve	LB	6-2	217	2	23	Minnesota	12
25	Strong, Ray	RB	5-9	184	2	23	Nevada-Las Vegas	14
96	Ten Napel, Garth	LB	6-1	215	3	25	Texas A&M	1
68	Thielemann, R.C.	G	6-4	257	3	24	Arkansas	16
57	Van Note, Jeff	C	6-2	247	11	33	Kentucky	16
83	Wright, James	TE	6-3	240	2	23	Texas Christian	15
79	Yeates, Jeff	DT	6-3	248	7	28	Boston College	16

Atlanta's Warren Bryant and R.C. Thielemann.

New Orleans' Elois Grooms battles Vikings' Ron Yary.

In the defensive line, the Falcons got solid play last season despite the unexpected retirement of end Claude Humphrey five games into the campaign. The flank spots are manned by Jeff Yeates and Jeff Merrow, with support from Edgar Fields, and they are capable defenders despite their lack of recognition.

The same thing can be said about tackle regulars Jim Bailey and Mike Lewis, solid veterans with a combined 17 years of NFL experience. Backstopping them is Wilson Faumuina, a No. 1 draft pick in '77 ready to claim a starting job up front.

The secondary underwent extensive changes last season due to trade and injuries, but one continual source of strength in this area is Pro Bowl cornerback Rolland Lawrence, who came up with a team-high six pass interceptions in '78. Lawrence enters this season with a career total of 30 interceptions, putting him within striking distance of the team career record of 31 held by Ray Brown.

Operating at the other corner is Rick Byas, second in '78 pass thefts with two, while the safety spots are occupied by Frank Reed and Tom Pridemore. Back in the running for his old starting safety spot after an injury-abbreviated '78 campaign is Ray Easterling, while reserves on call include Tom Moriarty, Ernie Jackson and Bob Glazebrook.

For the 8th consecutive year, punting chores will be in the capable hands and strong right foot of John James. He averaged 38.8 yards per kick and rolled 25 kicks dead inside the 20-yard line in '78. Taking care of the place kicking is Tim Mazzetti, who played in only 10 regular season games for the Falcons last year yet set numerous team records with 13 of 16 field goal conversions and 18 extra points. Mazzetti won three games last season with his field goal kicking, including a team-record five FGs in a Monday night 15-7 win over the Los Angeles Rams.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: Last year's Falcons discovered how the "other half" lives, making their first playoff appearance ever, and they could duplicate that performance in '79 if Coach Bennett's team keeps progressing. Offensively, with a healthy Bartkowski pitching to a fine gang of receivers, the passing attack will be Atlanta's main weapon. The rushing attack has fairly good potential, which will be realized only if one of the ball toters (Bubba Bean has the best credentials) produces consistently to take some heat off the aerial game. The offensive line is young, with the exception of Van Note, but the blocking corps will be A-okay if injuries are warded off. The defensive unit is one of the finest and most exciting around, with its "organized confusion" and Grits Blitz. Sure, we know the word "exciting" isn't often associated with a team's defense, but the way the swarming Falcons play the game, excitement is something they always produce. Coach Bennett has done some kinda fine job in Atlanta and, embarking on his third year at the helm, the best days may still be ahead for him. The '79 Falcons will fall short of knocking perennial NFC West kingpin Los Angeles off the top spot. However, another second place finish is certainly possible for Atlanta.

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
Bartkowski	369/187	18	2489	10
Jones	79/34	4	394	1
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Francis	45	695	15.4	3
Ryckman	45	679	15.1	2
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Lawrence	6	76	12.7	0
Ryas	2	37	18.5	0
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Bean	193	707	3.7	3
Stanback	188	588	3.1	5
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
James	109	4227	38.8	1
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Mazzetti	0	18/18	13/16	57
Stanback	5	0/0	0/0	30

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	FALCONS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	253	267
NET RUSH	1659	2067
Avg Per Game	103.7	129.2
NET PASS	2402	2364
Att/Comp	449/221	444/215
Had Int	23	12
Avg Per Game	150.1	147.8
PUNTS/AVG	110/38.4	107/37.0
Punts Return/Yds	43/345	56/305
Avg Per Return	8.0	5.4
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	52/1138	46/1062
Avg Per Return	21.9	23.1
FUMBLES/LOST	42/18	45/25
FIELD GOALS	16/26	12/23
PATS	26/27	35/36
TOTAL POINTS	240	290

San Francisco 49ers

(2-14-0)

Not even an earthquake could have rocked San Francisco with such a thunderous sound as during the last pro football season, when the bottom fell out on the once-proud 49ers. After the dust and rubble had been cleared away, there were the 49ers, dead last in the entire NFL with a 2-14 record, their list of injured players so long it's a wonder the Red Cross didn't send emergency aid.

Trying to put the pieces back together is new Head Coach Bill Walsh, a former top assistant in the NFL (with Oakland, Cincinnati and San Diego) who spent the past two years skippering Stanford University. Walsh is a highly respected leader who knows the sweet smell of success because of his association with winning teams, but he's also realistic enough to admit: "It will be a major task turning the 49ers around."

OFFENSE: Without reservation, the biggest chore confronting first-year mentor Walsh is finding a reliable quarterback. Not just a signal caller who runs and passes the pigskin fairly well, but someone who does those things without making costly mistakes. "We're going to have to develop our quarterbacking," Walsh comments, "to the point where it can run the team and not make the fatal errors that lose games."

Going into the '79 campaign, the No. 1 quarterback is Steve DeBerg, who went up top 302 times last season, completing only 137 for 1,570 yards and eight touchdowns. But DeBerg suffered a pretty bad knee injury in the final '78 game, and if he doesn't come back at full strength after off-season surgery, the 49ers will be forced to look elsewhere for a starting field general.

Currently listed as the back-up signal callers are Mike Cordova and Gary Forystek, while Scott Bull might also be a factor if he can bounce back from two serious knee operations. That threesome hardly overwhelms with their potential, to say the very least, so don't be surprised if the 49ers try to swing a trade or two to shore up the depth at quarterback.

No bed-of-roses, either, is the pass receiving corps, although the 49ers have good prospects at tight end in Ken MacAfee and Paul Seal. MacAfee was the team's No. 1 pick in last year's college draft, and the 49ers are hopeful his injury-impaired and disappointing rookie performance (only 22 pass receptions, one for a score) was just a case of first-year jitters. Seal hauled in 21 aerials for a noteworthy 17.6-yard-per-catch average and two TDs last season, but he has to start playing with more consistency.

The top pass catcher in '78, wide receiver Freddie Solomon, darted underneath 31 aerials, which he carried for 458 yards and two scores. Solomon has the blazing speed to go the distance anytime he hauls in a pass, but only if he can hang onto the ball in traffic, when

1979 Schedule

Sep	2	Minnesota
Sep	9	DALLAS
Sep	16	Los Angeles
Sep	23	NEW ORLEANS
Sep	30	San Diego
Oct	7	SEATTLE
Oct	14	NY Giants
Oct	21	ATLANTA
Oct	28	CHICAGO
Nov	4	Oakland
Nov	11	New Orleans
Nov	18	DENVER
Nov	25	LOS ANGELES
Dec	2	St. Louis
Dec	9	TAMPA BAY
Dec	16	Atlanta

49ers	1978 Results	Opp
7	at Cleveland	24
13	Chicago	16
19	at Houston	20
10	at N.Y. Giants	27
28	Cincinnati	12
10	at Los Angeles	27
7	New Orleans	14
17	Atlanta	20
20	at Washington	38
10	at Atlanta	21
10	St. Louis	16
28	Los Angeles	31
7	Pittsburgh	24
13	at New Orleans	24
6	Tampa Bay	3
14	at Detroit	33

San Francisco Forty Niners 1979 Veteran Roster

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	YR	AGE	COLLEGE	GAMES IN '78
68	Ayers, John	T-G	6-5	247	3	26	West Texas State	16
52	Baldassin, Mike	LB	6-1	218	3	24	Washington	16
77	Barrett, Jean	T	6-6	250	6	28	Tulsa	0
82	Boyett, Lon	TE	6-6	240	3	26	Cal State-Northridge	3
33	Boykin, Greg	FB	6-0	225	3	26	Northwestern	16
54	Bradley, Ed	LB	6-1	225	8	29	Wake Forest	16
19	Bull, Scott	QB	6-5	211	4	26	Arkansas	16
57	Bunz, Dan	LB	6-4	230	2	24	Cal State-Long Beach	16
31	Carr, Earl	FB	6-0	224	2	24	Florida	14
10	Connell, Mike	P	6-1	200	2	23	Cincinnati	16
24	Crist, Chuck	S	6-2	205	8	28	Penn State	15
51	Cross, Randy	C	6-3	250	4	25	UCLA	9
64	Davis, Kyle	C	6-2	240	3	27	Oklahoma	7
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-2	205	3	25	San Jose State	12
62	Downing, Walt	G	6-3	254	2	23	Michigan	16
72	Elam, Cleveland	DT	6-4	251	5	27	Tennessee State	12
55	Elia, Bruce	LB	6-1	220	5	26	Ohio State	16
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	263	6	27	Minnesota	15
38	Ferrell, Bob	FB	6-0	219	4	27	UCLA	16
75	Galigher, Ed	DT	6-5	247	8	29	UCLA	15
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE	6-4	244	10	31	North Texas State	16
59	Harper, Willie	LB	6-2	215	6	29	Nebraska	0
50	Harris, Joe	LB	6-1	225	3	27	Georgia Tech	16
83	Harrison, Kenny	WR	6-0	170	4	26	Southern Methodist	8
36	Hofer, Paul	RB	6-0	195	4	27	Mississippi	16
65	Hughes, Ernie	G	6-3	250	2	24	Notre Dame	15
40	Jackson, Wilbur	RB	6-1	219	5	28	Alabama	0
26	Jury, Bob	S	6-0	188	2	24	Pittsburgh	15
60	Knutson, Steve	C-G-T	6-3	254	5	28	Southern California	15
80	LeCount, Terry	WR	5-10	172	2	23	Florida	3
22	Lewis, Eddie	CB	6-0	174	4	26	Kansas	16
	Little, Everett	T	6-4	280	2	25	Houston	0
81	MacAfee, Ken	TE	6-5	250	2	23	Notre Dame	13
76	McCray, Willie	DE	6-5	234	2	26	Troy State	16
66	Miller, Johnny	G	6-1	247	2	25	Livingstone	0
25	Monds, Wonder	S	6-3	215	2	27	Nebraska	16
53	Moore, Dean	LB	6-2	210	2	24	Iowa	16
58	Nichols, Mark	LB	6-3	225	2	23	Colorado State	15
42	Odom, Ricky	CB	6-0	183	2	23	Southern California	11
56	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	240	2	23	Oregon	14
	Reamon, Tommy	RB	5-10	192	2	25	Missouri	0
78	Reese, Archie	DE	6-3	263	2	23	Clemson	16
49	Roberson, Vern	CB	6-2	195	3	27	Grambling	16
85	Seal, Paul	TE	6-4	223	6	27	Michigan	14
84	Shumann, Mike	WR	6-0	175	2	24	Florida State	6
32	Simpson, O.J.	RB	6-1	212	11	32	Southern California	10
67	Singleton, Ron	T	6-7	275	4	27	Grambling	14
88	Solomon, Freddie	WR	5-11	181	5	26	Tampa	16
87	Steptoe, Jack	WR	6-1	175	2	23	Utah	6
23	Threadgill, Bruce	S	6-0	190	2	23	Mississippi State	14
35	Walker, Elliott	RB	5-11	193	2	23	Pittsburgh	9
74	Webb, Jimmy	DT	6-5	245	5	27	Mississippi State	16
14	Wersching, Ray	K	5-11	210	7	29	California	16
30	Williams, Dave	RB	6-2	200	3	25	Colorado	16

some receivers get a little gun-shy if they hear the footsteps of rapidly approaching enemy defenders.

Terry LeCount, another speedster with long-distance ability, is back from a '78 injury and scheduled to man the other wide receiving spot. Before a dislocated wrist put him on the shelf last season, LeCount sped for 131 yards on 10 catches.

Other wide receivers currently in camp are Kenny Harrison, Mike Shuman and Jack Steptoe. Harrison averaged a team-high 20.0-yards per catch on 16 receptions last season. He's a former starter who supplies good experience in reserve, but Shuman and Steptoe are both limited in terms of playing time with the 49ers.

The rushing attack contributed a meager 130.5 yards-per-game in '78, although the ground game should be more effective if top ball toters O. J. Simpson and Wilbur Jackson are healthy again. Last season, the "Juice" led the team with 593 yards on 161 carries despite missing nearly half the campaign with an injury. Jackson sat out all of last year because of a physical malady, but if he and Simpson both come back at full strength, they will provide a solid 1-2 running punch.

In alphabetical order, the remaining ball carriers on hand are: Greg Boykin, Earl Carr, Bobby Ferrell, Paul Hofer, Elliott Walker and Dave Williams. Hofer was the most productive of that group in '78, rushing for 465 yards and seven touchdowns. Williams is a swiftee who ran 34 kickoffs back for a 21.9 yard average, including an 89-yard scoring return last season, but his experience as a running back is limited.

The offensive interior line, which blocked with the ferocity of a soggy sponge last year, is certain to undergo changes. However, the middle of the front wall does look fairly stable, provided center Randy Cross avoids injury and second-year guards Walt Downing and Ernie Hughes continue to improve with experience. Downing and Hughes were both regulars most of the '78 campaign, earning spots on the All-Rookie team even though they did endure some pretty rough moments because of inexperience.

The early front-runners to man the tackle berths are Keith Fahnhorst and Ron Singleton, although one of them (probably Singleton) could lose out to former regular Jean Barrett, on the injured list last year. Steve Knutson and John Ayers, both of whom can fill in at guard or tackle, head up the reserve corps in the front wall, along with centers Fred Quillan and Kyle Davis and guard Johnny Miller. The ingredients for a stronger blocking corps are available, but only if this unit develops more cohesion and injuries are kept down.

DEFENSE: Last season, opponents roared through the 49ers defense for 314.0. yards-per-game, scoring 17 rushing TDs and 20 aerial TDs. Injuries to several members of this unit hurt, most notably the loss of two-time Pro Bowl tackle Cleveland Elam. But just as much a factor was that, because of the sporadic play by the offense in '78, their defensive counter-parts had to spend long stretches of time trying to hold the fort, and they paid the inevitable price.

In the front wall, Elam figures to return after a horrid '78 campaign that saw him switched to a flank spot, then get hurt. Elam is expected to go back to his natural tackle spot again, where he'll be matched with Jimmy Webb, giving the 49ers solid talent in the middle of the front wall. But the lone reserve at tackle with even a modicum of experience is Ed Galigher, an eight-year pro who started most of last season.

Long-time bulwark Cedrick Hardman is an explosive pass rusher on duty at one line flank, although there's speculation he may be traded elsewhere. Archie Reese, who alternated between end and tackle last year as a rookie, will probably find a home at the other flank position. Another second-year pro, Willie McCray, is the chief back-up on the outside.

Budding young star Dan Bunz, the 49ers' other first round draft pick (with TE MacAfee), backs up the middle of the line. Bunz is a quick 230-pounder who hits like a hammer, and he'll be a super "mike" man once he refines his pass coverage. Solid veteran Ed Bradley supplies good depth in the middle where there's also lightly experienced Mark Nichols.

The two corner linebacking spots will be manned by Joe Harris and Willie Harper, the latter back in tow after missing the tail-end of the '78 campaign with an injury. Both Harris and Harper have the speed to be solid outside 'backers, although neither is particularly big. The foremost reserve behind them, and a potential starter, is Bruce Elia, with assistance from Mike Baldassin and Dean Moore.

Youth is the by-word in the secondary, where cornerback Ricky Odom and strong safety Bob Jury nailed down regular jobs as '78 rookies. Both are potentially sound defenders, but you can bet that enemy passers and receivers will continue to take advantage of their lack of experience.

The steadiest defender in the deep zones is speedy cornerback Eddie Lewis, who intercepted three passes last season. The team's leading '78 pass thief, Chuck Crist, who stole six, is on duty at free safety. The cast of reserves in the secondary consists of Vern Roberson, Bruce Threadgill and Wonder Monds, which tells you why the regulars – although they get shelled by enemy passers -- still hang onto their starting jobs.

Placekicker Ray Wersching is a good short-to-medium-range booter who converted 24 of 25 extra points and 15 of 23 field goals last season -- including a perfect seven-for-seven on field goals inside the 30-yard line. Punter Mike Connell, who averaged 37.3 yards on 96 kicks in '78, needs to show marked improvement or he could be sent packing.

GAMEPLAN CONCLUSION: It's an uphill battle facing new Coach Bill Walsh, as he tries to straighten out the topsy-turvy 49ers. But we think the team finally made the right selection when they handed the reins to Walsh, because he's a knowledgeable football man at

San Francisco 49ers Rookie Roster

(Listed in order of selection)

NAME	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
Owens, James	WR	5-11	180	UCLA
Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	191	Notre Dame
Seabron, Tom	LB	6-4	225	Michigan
Aldridge, Jerry	RB	6-2	200	Angelo State
Vaughan, Ruben	DT	6-3	260	Colorado
Francis, Phil	RB	6-1	195	Stanford
Hamilton, Steve	DT	6-3	250	Missouri
Clark, Dwight	WR	6-4	195	Clemson
Ballage, Howard	DB	6-1	185	Colorado
McBride, Billy	DB	6-2	190	Tennessee St

1978 LEADERS

PASS	A/C	INT	YDS	TD
DeBerg	302/137	22	1570	8
Bull	121/48	11	651	1
REC	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Solomon	31	458	14.8	2
MacAfee	22	205	9.3	1
INT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Grist	6	159	26.5	0
Leonard	4	44	11.0	1
RUSH	**ATT**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**TD**
Simpson	161	593	3.7	1
Ferrell	125	471	3.8	1
PUNT	**NO**	**YDS**	**AVG**	**BK**
Connell	96	3583	37.3	0
SCORE	**TD**	**EP/MA**	**FG/MA**	**PTS**
Wersching	0	24/25	15/23	69
Hofer	7	0/0	0/0	42

1978 Regular Season Statistics

	49ERS	OPP
FIRST DOWNS	257	295
NET RUSH	2088	2365
Avg Per Game	130.5	147.8
NET PASS	1956	2659
Att/Comp	435/190	413/219
Had Int	36	18
Avg Per Game	122.3	166.2
PUNTS/AVG	97/36.9	87/40.2
Punts Return/Yds	47/323	46/356
Avg Per Return	6.9	7.7
KICKOFF-RET/YDS	73/1421	47/927
Avg Per Return	19.5	19.7
FUMBLES/LOST	56/30	50/27
FIELD GOALS	15/23	23/38
PATS	24/25	38/39
TOTAL POINTS	219	349

every level. Offensively, Coach Walsh will probably build the attack around the rushing game and the short passing attack, which should work out fine if top ball toters Simpson and Jackson stay healthy and productive. If not, then the Niners may have to opt for a "big play" offense, which is indeed problematical since there's no guarantee of a quarterback who can throw the ball deep or receivers who can hang onto it if it gets there. The offensive line has fairly good potential, but the blocking corps needs time to play together as a unit and develop cohesion to really get the job done. The defense is pretty sound in the front wall and at linebacker, although depth in both areas leaves us unimpressed. In the secondary, well, suffice it to say there's a lot of work to be done yet before enemy passers will look upon this area without a gleam in their eyes. As we said before, the 49ers made an excellent move when they selected Bill Walsh to lift the team out of the doldrums. But that project will take time and patience because, in all candor, the Niners have fallen on hard times and seem destined to again "bring up the rear" in the NFC West.

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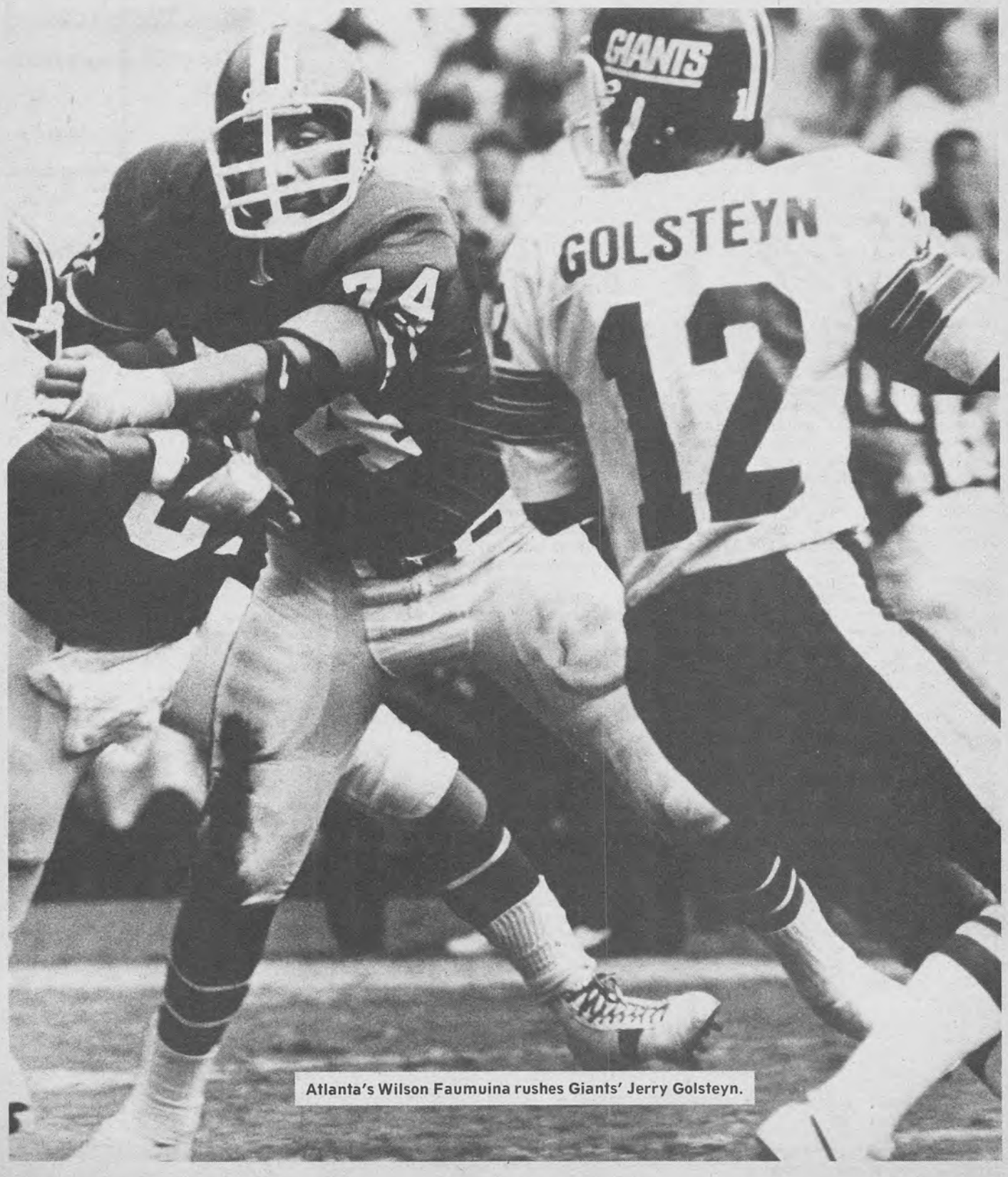
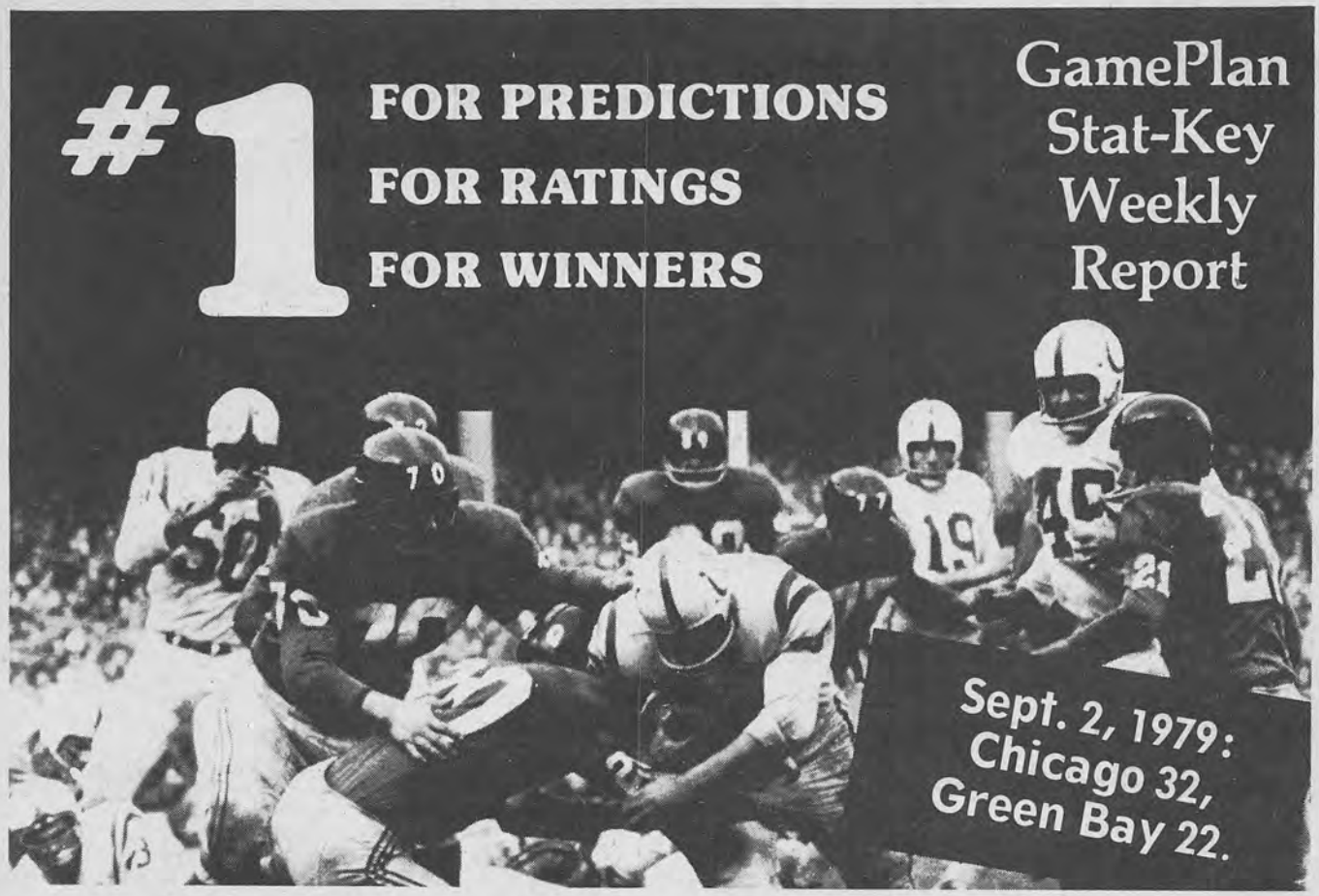


Atlanta's Wilson Faumuina rushes Giants' Jerry Golsteyn.



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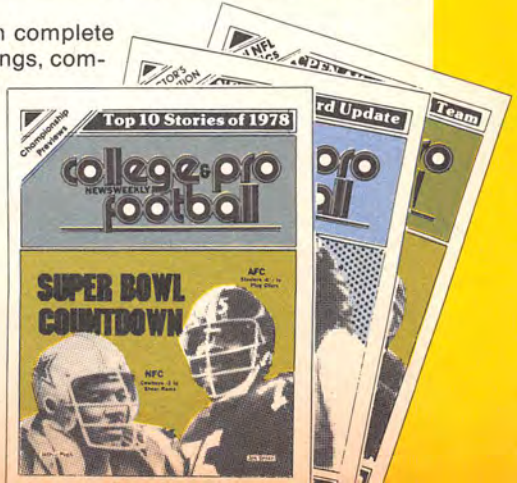

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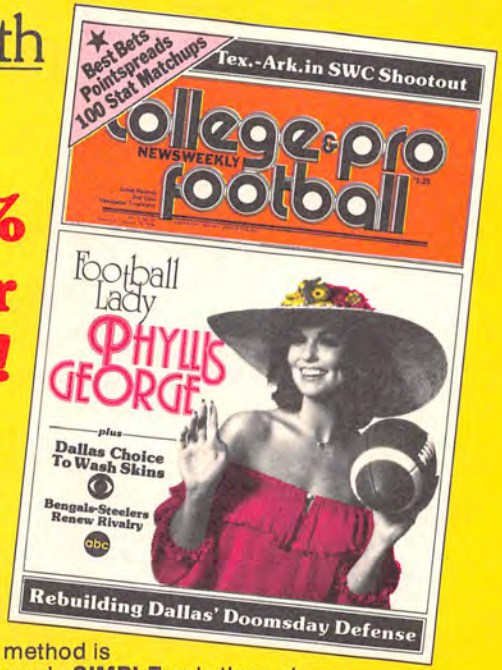

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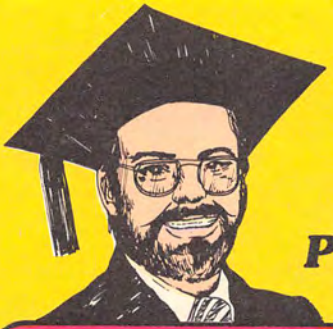

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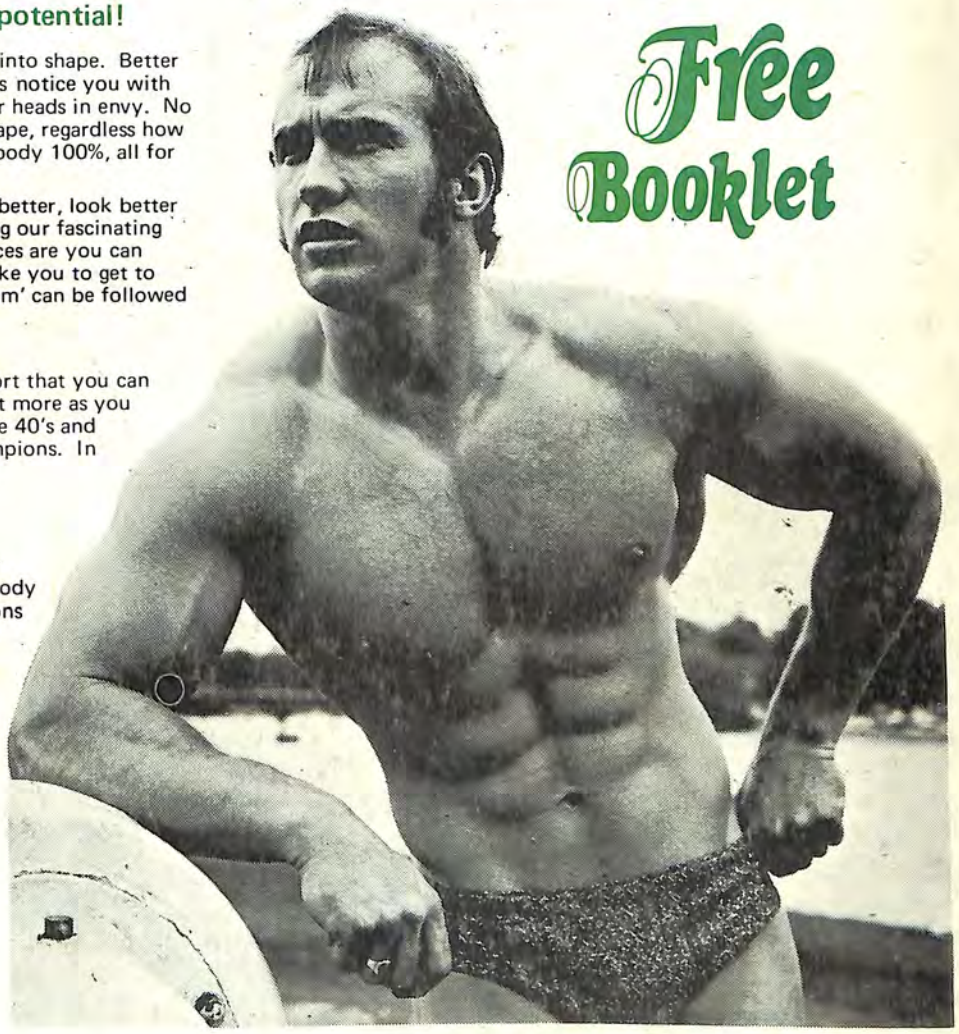

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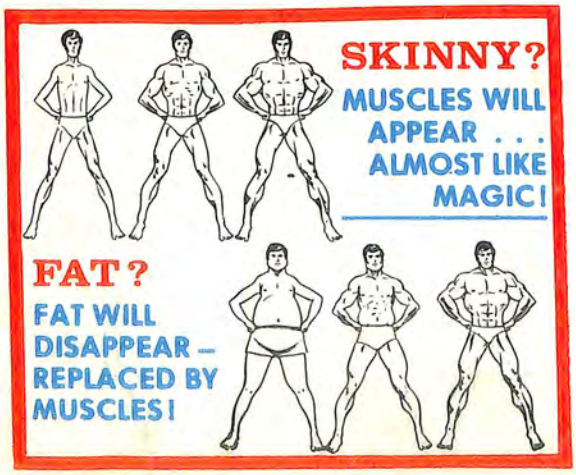

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